

THE JOURNAL

March 19, 2004

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Sports Previewing the BSAL softball season [C1]

Arts Classical and hip-hop to intersect at Oakland East Bay Symphony [C10]

Cerrito moves to increase road safety on Arlington Blvd.

Terrace Drive at its March 15 meeting. It also unanimously approved several other improvements to the hillside thoroughfare intended to dissuade speeding motorists and decrease accidents.

However, as predicted by public works director Dan Clark, the meeting audience of Arlington Boulevard residents and others who live in the area were split over whether the stop signs should be erected as well as what other traffic improvements should be made.

After the meeting, homeowner Mark Choi said he was indifferent to the stop signs but felt

something needed to be done about speeding and drunken drivers on Arlington, which he believed drivers were using to avoid police on Friday and Saturday nights.

He said there were six accidents on the 900 block of Arlington Boulevard last year, including one on the night of Dec. 23 in which a fire hydrant was hit.

Choi has since placed three boulders in front of his home weighing several thousand pounds each, in the hope of preventing a vehicle from barreling

See SAFETY, Page A10



MOTORISTS DRIVE through the intersection of Arlington Boulevard and Moeser Lane in El Cerrito, where new stop signs are being considered.

MARK DUFRENE/STAFF

OF DOGS, CATS AND PEOPLE



MIM CARLSON, new executive director of the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society, cuddles Claude, the office cat. Carlson says a top priority will be expanding the number of mobile animal adoption units, including in Albany, El Cerrito and Kensington.

Diplomacy key for Humane Society head

By Martin Snapp

STAFF WRITER

THE BERKELEY-EAST BAY Humane Society has a new executive director, and animal lovers are hailing the choice as the harbinger of a new era of cooperation among local animal welfare agencies.

Miriam "Mim" Carlson, a management consultant specializing in nonprofit groups, took up the reins Jan. 19. She is the author of "The Executive Director's Survival Guide" and "Writ-

ing Grants Step By Step" — skills that will be put to ample use running the cash-strapped agency.

"But that's not why we hired her," said veterinarian Alan Shiro, chairman of the Humane Society's board of directors. "We chose her because she has a real talent for reaching out to others, and that's our number one priority. In the past, animal welfare groups have competed with each other; and that hasn't done anyone any good, least of all the animals."

Carlson has quickly established a firm working relationship with her counterpart at the Berkeley Animal Shelter, Animal Control Director Kate O'Connor.

"They're already doing spay/neuter surgeries on our dogs and cats in their animal hospital," said O'Connor. "And that's just the beginning. Working with Mim is going to be a real pleasure."

See HUMANE, Page A9

Pet of the Week

■ New: Adoptable animals from the Berkeley East Bay Humane Society. Page A3

At the Library

■ From art supplies to pets, you can borrow more than books from a library. Page A5

Martin Snapp

■ The Mel-O-Dee gang is looking for a new home for a special wheelchair. Page A3

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NEWS BRIEFS

Albany**New Chamber of Commerce board named**

Alan Cain, owner of Albany Video, has been elected to the board of directors. "We are thrilled to have him on our board," wrote Chamber Executive Director James Carter in an e-mail message. "Over the years, Alan has made many outstanding contributions to our community, both as a businessman and as the former president of the Solano Avenue Association."

Other Chamber officers are: Sherman Lim, president; Jim Landes of Fonda, first vice president; Shirley Fudge-Mueller, of Pacific Gas & Electric, second vice president; and Elisabeth Bell, treasurer. Board members are Ray Anderson, (R.H. Anderson, Co.), Wayne Black (Wayne Black Investments), Alan Cain (Albany Video Repair), Mary D'Elia (Albany YMCA), Steve Kahn (Steve's Auto Repair), Dana Milner (Dana Milner, Contractor), Denise Pinkston (TMG Partners), Roseanne Pontes (Waste Management), Yolanda Stenmark (The Mechanic's Bank), Peter Tung (Payless Computers), The Naaree Thai Restaurant, Winnie Yu (Celadon Fine Teas) and James Carter (executive director).

Golf classic to benefit Albany High baseball

The Cougar Golf Classic will be held on Saturday, May 8 at 12:30 p.m. at Tilden Park Golf Course. The Albany High School Baseball Boosters group is the sponsor of the second annual event, a fundraiser to benefit the school's baseball program.

The tournament will feature a shotgun start and foursomes will play best ball. Golfers of various levels are welcome. The cost is \$135 per golfer. Price includes green fees, cart, prizes and dinner.

For information, call 510-525-2608, or e-mail Golf4AHSBaseball@aol.com. Checks payable to the AHS Baseball Boosters should be sent to: Cougar Golf Classic C/O P.O. Box 6007, Albany, CA 94706.

Musical comedy slated for March 20

Healing Muses will present "La Foolia!" — described by the show's organizers as a raucous spectacle of early music comedy and hysterically informed performances — at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 20 and 4 p.m. Sunday, March 21, at St. Alban's Episcopal Church parish hall.

The musical event will feature "The Bad Girls of Early Music," Susan Rode Morris, soprano and more; Shira Kammen, violins and even more; and Phebe Craig and Katherine Westine, harpsichords and even still more.

Proceeds will benefit Healing Muses' hospital music program.

The church hall, which is not wheelchair accessible, is located at 1501 Washington St. Tickets are \$15 and \$18. Reservations are recommended. Call 510-524-5661.

El Cerrito**Swim center grand opening set for April 3**

Though it quietly opened in January, the newly remodeled El Cerrito Swim Center will be celebrated with a grand opening party on Saturday, April 3.

There will be free swimming from noon to 4 p.m. as the center is transformed into a bit of Hawaii with a luau, as well as games, prizes, food and entertainment. For details on the pool or the celebration call Samantha Kelman at 510-559-7008.

Meetings slated on school reconstruction

The West Contra Costa school district will hold a series of neighborhood meetings to discuss upcoming reconstruction of nine elementary schools, funded with Measure B money. Discussions will concern the installation of portable classrooms, and impacts on the neighborhood, parents and school staff.

The schedule for El Cerrito schools is:

■ Portola Middle School, 1021 Navelier St., El Cerrito, on Monday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will discuss the proposed relocation of Kensington Elementary School to the Portola campus.

■ Kensington Elementary, 90 Highland Blvd., Kensington, on Monday, March 29, at 7 p.m. This meeting also will discuss the relocation of the school and related issues.

■ Mira Vista Elementary, 6397 Hazel Ave., El Cerrito, on Tuesday, March 30, at 7 p.m. The meeting will discuss traffic impacts and other neighborhood issues.

Self-portraits on display at framing shop

Adams Middle High School students are exhibiting self portraits through March 31 at The Glenn Custom Framing.

Under the direction of art instructor Steve Mainini, the students' first assignment in the fall was to draw a portrait of themselves with a neutral expression. "I always use this assignment as a self confidence builder," Mainini said.

The Glenn is at 7027 Stockton Ave. It is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays. For information on Saturday hours at the store, call Kathleen Glenn at 510-558-1078.

Volunteer Info-Fair scheduled for April 17

A Volunteer Info-Fair will be held April 17, from 12:30 to 4 p.m. in conjunction with El Cerrito's Volunteer Month at El Cerrito United Methodist Church, 6830 Stockton Ave. (near Richmond Street), El Cerrito. There will be games, booths and activities. The goal is to assist interested organizations to find volunteers they need, and to help match opportunity seekers with their dream opportunity. Among participating agencies are:

Alta Bates LIFESPAN, Bay Area Alternative Press, CCC Library, Child Abuse Prevention Council, Community Violence Solutions, Contra Costa Civic Theater, Contra Costa Crisis Center, Diablo Valley AIDS Center, El Cerrito Senior Center, Elder Abuse Prevention, First 5 of Contra Costa County, Food Pantry, Friends of Baxter Creek, GRIP, Habitat for Humanity, HICAP, LITA, Meals on Wheels, Ombudsman, Parish Nursing (Health Ministry), Read Aloud (will show a video), Salesian Boys & Girls Club, Smiley Dog Rescue, STAND, VNA Hospice, West County Regional Group for Kids, West County Reads, Women's Cancer Resource Center.

West County**Sign-ups scheduled for youth soccer**

Fall 2004 soccer registration for the West Contra Costa Youth Soccer League continues March 28 and April 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the cafeteria at De Anza High School, 5000 Valley View Road in El Sobrante. All children from ages 4 to 18 are welcome to sign up. The fee is \$80 for ages 4 and 5, and \$100 for ages 6 and up. Sibling discounts are available. Bring a copy of the birth certificate and a small wallet size photo of the player. For details, visit www.wccysl.com or call the league hotline, 510-869-5288.

— Staff report

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ALBANY POLICE REPORTS**Monday, March 8**

■ BIKE STOLEN — A resident reported her son's bike was stolen during school hours while it was in the bike rack at Ocean View School on the 1000 block of Jackson Street. There were no witnesses.

Tuesday, March 9

■ HONDA LOCATED — Officers located a blue '91 Honda on the 500 block of Pomona Avenue that had been reported as stolen out of Richmond. They did not have anyone in custody and the owner was notified.

Thursday, March 11

■ PURSE THIEVES — About 10:30 a.m., officers responded to a restaurant on the 1300 block of Solano Avenue on reports of two subjects described as females in their 20s who had stolen a purse. They had evidently ordered food, waited for a few minutes then grabbed a purse and ran out. They were last seen heading north on Ramona Avenue in a silver '00 Volkswagen and were gone when officers arrived.

■ MORE THIEVES — About 7:30 p.m., officers responded to a video store on the 1100 block of Solano Avenue on reports of a tall white or Hispanic man who had just attempted to

■ WARRANTS — About 5 p.m. officers stopped an '85 Ford near San

steal money from the till. He was described as wearing a black jacket, white T-shirt and blue jeans. He was with a white woman wearing dark clothing. They were last seen traveling north on San Pablo Avenue and were gone when officers arrived.

Friday, March 12

■ TIRES STOLEN — A resident at 535 Pierce St. reported that during the night thieves, stole all four tires and rims of his blue '04 Nissan 350Z while it was parked in the garage. There were no witnesses.

■ JUVENILE PROBATION — About 9 p.m. officers responded to the snack bar area at Albany High School on the 600 block of Key Route Boulevard on reports of a group of students who were smoking marijuana and drinking. Officers picked up a 16-year-old Albany boy for a probation violation and transported him to Juvenile Hall.

Saturday, March 13

■ DUI — About 1 a.m. officers stopped a vehicle near San Pablo Avenue and Gilman Street for a vehicle code violation. They arrested the driver, a 23-year-old Danville man, for DUI. He was cited and released with a notice to appear.

■ WARRIOR — About 5 p.m. officers stopped an '85 Ford near San

Pablo Avenue and Garfield Street for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 39-year-old El Cerrito man, was found to have six outstanding Alameda County warrants for traffic violations and failure to appear. He was arrested, cited and released with a notice to appear. Because the passenger in the vehicle had a suspended driver's license, it was released to a friend to keep it from being towed.

Sunday, March 14

■ BICYCLIST — About 2 a.m. officers stopped a bicyclist near Jacuzzi and Central avenues for riding without a light. The rider, a 34-year-old Richmond man, was found to have an outstanding Oakland warrant in the amount of \$1,500. He was arrested, cited and released with a notice to appear.

■ NO BAIL WARRANT — About 4 a.m., officers responded to reports from a security guard at 535 Pierce St. of a man in a black '98 Lexus acting suspiciously. Officers contacted the 26-year-old Albany man and a check found he had a warrant for assault in the amount of \$15,000 and a no bail warrant for carrying a concealed gun. He was arrested, cited and transported to Santa Rita Jail.

■ PICKUP STOLEN — During the night, thieves stole a white '86 Nissan pickup parked on the 1000 block of Neilson Street.

■ HONDA STOLEN — An Oakland man reportedly had stolen his black '92 Accord while it was parked in a parking lot at Golden Gate Park. There were no witnesses.

■ DRUNK IN PUBLIC — a.m., officers responded to a block of Solano Avenue from a crossing guard who was intoxicated. Officers responded to the San Francisco woman who was intoxicated and care for herself. She was being drunk in public and released when sober.

Weekly Sun

During the week of March 16 officers towed seven cars to 16 false alarms, after lost animals, responded to reports of barking dogs and one person who was barking his car. In the domestic responded to eight civil and 145 civil assist. One 116 vehicles or persons and 64 emergency fighter/paramedics responded to a fire call and 15 medical calls.

just been removed. The Richmond men, 18 and 19, were arrested for attempted burglary. One was released after questioning. The was taken to the Martinez jail.

■ COUNTERFEIT CLOTHES — officers arrested a 45-year-old Richmond in connection with forgery and counterfeiting at an El Cerrito business.

The following animals may be available for adoption at the Berkeley East Bay Humane. Dogs: Female border collie, 3 years; male beagle, 1 year; male Australian shepherd-pit bull mix, 1-2 years; female shar-pei mix, 2 years; male Brittany spaniel, 6 years; male Jack Russell terrier, 5 years; male Labrador-rottweiler mix, 1 year.

Cats: Female calico, 6 years; female calico, 2 years; female black, 4 months; male tortoiseshell (very shy), 3½ years; female black-and-white, 7 years; female black, 3½ ears; female black, 3 years; male black, 9 months; female tortoiseshell, 9 months; male gray-and-white, 2 years; female calico, 6 years; female calico, 3 years; male brown tabby-and-white, 3 years; female tortoiseshell, 3 years; male gray tabby, 6 years.

There is an overnight hold period to allow the potential adopter time to get the home ready with food, crates, litter

boxes, toys and what is needed. The adoption for cats and \$125 to include spaying or neutering all age-appropriate shots.

The Berkeley East Bay Humane Society is located at 2700 Ninth St., Berkeley, open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, closed Monday. For <http://www.berkeleyeastbay.org> or call 510-845-7732.

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Neighbors

ES & PLACES



GREGORY URQUJAGA/STAFF

SCOTTISH FIDDLER Alasdair Fraser plays during a music workshop at the Veterans Memorial Building in Albany on Saturday, March 14. Fraser and pianist Muriel Johnstone helped a group of musicians polish their skills in playing for Scottish country dancing, requires exacting performance by dancers and musicians alike. The workshop was followed that evening by a party at which the men played for the dancers.

Adams, a senior at El High School, is one of five young people chosen to the Contra Costa County Hall of Fame, the County-School Commission has announced. She, 18, was chosen as representing youths who use their literary or artistic talents to benefit the school or community. She has been playing the violin since age 5 and plays for different groups and bands. She teaches children, as well as 2 or 3, to play the fiddle. She was chosen for the Youth Hall of Fame because Sapna Krishnan, 17, of Deer Valley High

School in Antioch; Brittney Ross, 17, a senior at Pinole Valley High School; Caitlin Schwass, 17, a junior College Park High School in Pleasant Hill and William Schalich, 18, a senior at College Park High School in Pleasant Hill.

Dino Battaglini, vice principal at Antioch High School, was honored as an adult advocate.

The Youth Hall of Fame was established in 1998 as a way to recognize the sometimes overlooked commitment and service of local youth to their peers, their schools and their communities. This year's honorees represent the many and valuable contributions made by young people, as well as the adults who work with

youth, in our county. Honorees will be added to a perpetual plaque kept in the lobby of the Board of Supervisors' Chambers.

■ ■ ■

Army Reserve Pfc. Tony T. Chan, a 2003 graduate of Albany High School, has graduated from the automated logistical specialist advanced individual training (AIT) course at Fort Lee, Petersburg, Va.

Chan was trained to establish and maintain stock records and other documents such as inventory, material control, accounting and support reports, automated and manual accounting records; review and verify bills of lading, contracts, and purchase orders;

repair and construct shipping crates for equipment and supplies; and perform prescribed loads and shop stock lists in manual and automated supply applications.

He is the son of Anna and Ming Chan, both of Albany.

Please send items for the Faces & Places column to: Neighbors, the Journal, 4301 Lakeside Dr., Richmond, CA 94806. Or e-mail to journal@ccitimes.com. We welcome photos — both hard copy and e-mailed — and items about the doings and achievements of residents in the El Cerrito, Albany, Kensington and Richmond Annex areas.

Living lunch for talented musicians a true pleasure



CLARA-RAE GENSER

Community Folk

As a love fest. Every member of the San Francisco Symphony leagues the musicians to a luncheon to appreciate the artful music they make and give to all of us. This year's luncheon, held on March 9 at Davies Wharf, was organized by Nancy Nielson of Kensington and represented the East Bay, of which she is president. (This league covers West Contra Costa and Alameda County down through the year.)

It helped set up and decorate the room for the onslight of hungry musicians eager and the hour we had to bring up the love and admiration we receive from all of us. At last time I took part in the leagues were doing it, helping, preparing and serving. At that time one pasta was given to each of us, was enough for six to people. We all worked the same recipe, but it was very different each dish good, though, according to us.

As they came in and gathered around the buffet table, they told us how much this meant to them, and how much they appreciated it. Of course, our reply was always how much we appreciated them. And it was good to see them in their informal working clothes, rather than the black formal clothing they wear in concerts. These very talented people became just people for an hour.

During the few minutes given over to speeches, and after our chairman welcomed them and told them how much we enjoyed this, and their spokesperson responded in kind, Michael Tilson Thomas added his thanks. One remark delighted us. He said he had been with many orchestras, all over the world, and usually, when the auxiliaries invited them to lunch or to dinner they ran the other way.

"We run, too," he said. "Right to you and to the delicious food

and the love you offer us."

MTT is a great conductor, and can be a hard taskmaster. While we were making preparations, the sounds of the rehearsal were piped in to us. At one point I heard MTT ask one musician to "repeat those four notes for me." And then again, and again, and again. The musician had played the notes correctly, and in time.

It was only after they were played several times that I realized what the conductor wanted. The tone became broad and assertive, and I realized that those four notes were going to lead the orchestra into the next phrase. As that happened the or-

chestra swept smoothly into the melody.

I had time for only very short chats with some of the musicians. One was a young oboist who raved about the people in her section. It is their appreciation for each other and for their leader that makes them such a cohesive whole.

Do you know people, places or groups in El Cerrito, Albany or Kensington that would make good subjects for this column? If so, please write me at 555 Pierce St., No. 443, Albany, CA 94706 or call 510-525-4585. My e-mail is ergenser@aol.com.

Patrons want to keep friend's memory alive



MARTIN SNAPP

Snapp Shots

FOR THE LAST couple of years I've been writing about the patrons of the Mel-O-Dee Lounge at El Cerrito Plaza, especially about the kindness they showed one of their own, Red Holskil.

Red was a retired school custodian who lost both legs to amputation because of chronic circulatory problems. It was hard for him to get up and down the hill from his home to the Plaza in his old-fashioned, hand-driven wheelchair, especially in the rain.

One day, they all passed the hat behind his back and bought him a new, high-tech, motorized wheelchair.

"People think we did it because we felt sorry for him, but it's not true," says Rich Smith of El Cerrito. "We did it because we admired him. He never complained, ever. The only time he referred to his handicap was to make fun of it."

The new chair made all the difference. Now he could go anywhere he wanted, any time he wanted. Best of all, he could take his beloved dog, Tiny, for walks again — something he hadn't been able to do for years.

Unfortunately, he was able to enjoy it for only a little over a year. Last month, it was my sad duty to report that Red had died.

Many readers wrote to express their sorrow, and several asked, "What happened to Tiny?"

Not to worry. She's already been placed in a loving new home. But finding a good home for Red's wheelchair is another matter.

"We could have sold it and recouped some of the money we laid out," says Kenny De Martini, owner of the Mel-O-Dee. "But we all talked it over, and we decided we'd much rather give it to someone who could really use it. We're hoping your readers can help us find that person."

Great idea. If you know a likely candidate, drop Kenny and the gang a note at the Mel-O-Dee Lounge, 240 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94550.

"We only have one wheelchair, and we'll probably get more than one letter," says Kenny. "So we've decided to pick the person we think Red would have wanted to have it."

■ ■ ■

Speaking of letters, several readers have asked if I remem-

ber much about Kerry or Bush at Yale, since we were all there at the same time. (Kerry was the year ahead of me, Bush was the year behind.) Answer: Kerry, yes. Bush, no.

Everybody remembers John Kerry — or, as he styled himself in those days, John F. Kerry. Even then, he had the presidential bug. He used to sit around drawing up fantasy lists of cabinet members he planned to appoint when he reached the White House.

As for Bush, I've polled a lot of my classmates, and nobody can remember him. He spent most of his time partying in the Deke house; and if you weren't in that frat, your chances of meeting him were pretty slim.

But guess who was the Big Man On Campus, the one everyone looked up to and thought was really cool? Joe Lieberman.

P.S. Bush and Kerry have one thing in common, and it transcends all their political differences: They both are — members of Skull & Bones, the oldest, richest, snootiest, and most secretive of all the secret societies at Yale.

It's so secretive, in fact, that if you say the words "Skull and Bones" in a bonesman's presence (there are no Boneswomen), he must immediately leave the room.

I don't know about you, but when the two of them get together for that first debate, I'll be wishin' and hopin' and prayin' that somebody has the guts to ask one of them a question about Skull & Bones.

Then all America will be treated to the spectacle of both major candidates for the highest office in the land simultaneously walking out of the studio.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or email msnapp@cc-times.com

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THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

EDITORIAL

Let the music play

BEFORE A crowd of parents and other supporters who filled the main floor of the Richmond Auditorium, plus many of the balcony seats, the best young musicians of the West Contra Costa school district put on a performance Tuesday, March 16, that showed more clearly than any written or spoken argument, the benefits of music education in the schools.

It was the All District Music Festival, and as the program progressed, it was evident how the young performers' skill and confidence increase through years of musical study.

The audience listened appreciatively to honor choirs, bands and orchestras from elementary, middle and high schools.

The students were from schools all over the district, but came together as amazingly cohesive musical units.

The guest master of ceremonies was Robert Calonico, UC Berkeley's director of bands.

The program included classical favorites like an excerpt of "The Planets," and many less-familiar pieces for musicians and choral groups.

The students in the bands were well-behaved and attentive — any curmudgeon who says they don't much care for children should have been there to see them in their concert white-and-black outfits, playing everything from clarinets to bass drums, from violins to tubas to oboes.

A couple of yahoos in the crowd who insisted on yelling encouragement to those onstage could have learned a lesson in proper audience behavior from the young performers.

As one dad commented later, they acted more like they thought it was a sporting event. While their enthusiasm was admirable, it was clear that sometimes the audience needs education as well.

There are some who might say that music should be among the last, not the first, subjects and activities to be cut from the curriculum when budgetary times are tough.

Music is not just for the prodigies or those who plan to make a career of it.

Learning music, as any parent of a band student can attest, brings many kinds of development into play: There's hand-eye coordination, math (all those time signatures and whole, half, quarter, eighth and sixteenth notes), good study skills, leadership and teamwork, to name just a few benefits.

Studying an instrument may be a boy or girl's first experience with the progress one can make by patiently practicing something daily, with each achievement building on the one before.

Students who really become interested in music find themselves learning world history, as they delve into musical forms of the past and find out about the great composers from around the globe.

If they stick with it, they will have a skill that others will envy and that they often can enjoy well into old age. Music can become a link and a form of communication across ages, genders, races and classes.

But in a way, that's to overlook the simple heart of it: the pure joy of music to those who play, and to those who listen. Bravo, kids.

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

House of Representatives

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State Senate

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Tom Torlakson: (D-7th District: El Cerrito, Kensington) 2801 Concord Blvd., Concord CA 94519; 800-859-9900 or State Capitol, Room 2068, Sacramento CA 95814; 916-445-6083. E-mail: senator.torlakson@sen.ca.gov

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Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us

EBMUD

David Richardson: Ward No. 4 (Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville; part of Oakland; El Cerrito and Kensington). E-mail: Oakport@gc.org

East Bay Regional Parks

Jean Siris: Ward 1 (Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Kensington, part of Pinole, and San Pablo). E-mail: jsiris@ebparks.org

AC Transit

Joe Wallace: Ward 1 (West Contra Costa and Northern Alameda counties). E-mail: jwallace@actransit.org; phone 510-891-7143; fax 510-234-7689.

Steg Sanitary District

Phone 510-524-4668 or see online at www.stegsd.dct.ca.us.

Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd, 510-527-8395. Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Arlington Blvd, 510-526-4141

School boards

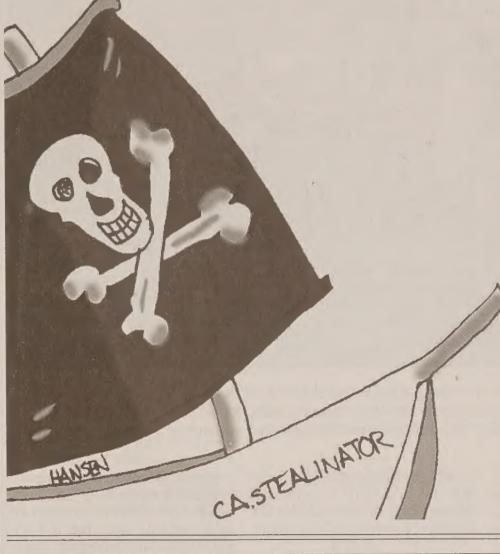
West Contra Costa Unified School District: 510-620-2246

Albany Unified School District: 510-558-3766

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THE STATE PILLAGES FUNDS FROM LOCAL COFFERS



THEY SAY IT'S LIKE A CRUISE SHIP... THEY TAKE YOUR MONEY, EXCEPT YOU DON'T GET TO GO ANYWHERE.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Minority rules?

Congratulations to the selfish minority who thwarted the will of the majority who voted for passage of Measure J.

Without this parcel tax in these lean budget times, the West Contra Costa Unified school district is closing libraries and discontinuing music and athletic programs. Classroom size reductions may be next.

We'd better pray that one of these kids being denied a proper education — the next generation of citizens in our community — doesn't grow up to be the thug on the street who mugs you or the unprepared health care worker who's entrusted with your life during a medical emergency.

My daughter is a first-grader at Madera Elementary School. She looks forward to going to the school library each week. Now that she's reading, a whole new world has opened up to her.

What right does this minority have to close this chapter on her and all the children who will benefit from learning the love of reading?

Our system is broken when a small minority can exercise veto power over the public good. This is democracy?

Craig Noble
El Cerrito

Don't rewrite dictionary

The following definitions are from Webster's Dictionary:

Marriage is the mutual relation of a husband and wife; the institution whereby men and women are joined in a special kind of social and legal dependence for the purpose of founding and maintaining a family.

It describes a husband as a married man and a wife as a married woman. A spouse is a betrothed man, groom or a betrothed woman, bride.

The definition of each of the above specifically includes the word "man" or "woman." Therefore, two people of the same sex do not fall within the parameters of "marriage."

The solution to this problem seems so simple! Create a new category. Call it a civil union, a domestic partnership, or another choice of name. That category should have the same perks that marriage has — partners being covered by health plans, Social Security benefits, etc.

The establishing of the new category should satisfy both sides ... a win-win situation.

Some people try to drag in "the separation of church and state." There is nothing in the definition of marriage that mentions church or religion. Many couples choose to have a religious ceremony. Many do not.

Some are married in homes, in gardens, by the Justice of the Peace, at drive-through windows in Nevada, standing at home plate, on the 50-yard line, even skydivers jumping out of planes. The couples are the ones who choose the site.

Please start working toward a legal solution without rewriting the dictionary.

Laura H. Kramer

El Cerrito

Quonset hut theater when the money could have been spent on the upkeep of the new swimming pool and/or starting the new library? The so-called art deco — mirror, etc. — from the theater could be placed in any public building such as the City Hall or library.

Speaking of the library, it is speculated the "city fathers" will again make a hasty decision to approve the developer's plan to build a multi-use structure at 6420 Fairmount Ave., the building that once housed telephone company offices and later offices for Mountain Bike.

This isn't very big lot for what we've heard is planned: a three-story structure with apartments and shops and part of the area for the new public library.

A library should be a building by itself or incorporated into the City Hall area so that it's visible, centrally located and with ample parking. With this plan, apartment visitors, shoppers and library users will be vying for the same parking spaces. So far, the library has been allocated 11 parking spaces.

Have the "approvers" of this development been to our library recently? Some hours you can't find parking. Agreed, the lot is shared with the senior center and the school, but I'm referring to after hours.

A library should be visible and easily accessible, have plenty of natural light and air, have places for study areas, computer rooms and conference rooms, and a children's library with room for programs. I don't believe the developers have room for all of this. It appears the "city fathers" don't appreciate the value of a good library to a community.

Let's not allow this development to happen at that Fairmount site.

Note also that the library won't produce tax revenue. Therefore, it would be better to use the entire Fairmount property for commercial use.

I suggest we rebuild the library where it is now or incorporate it in the central part of the city near the "new" City Hall.

Carol Elmstedt
El Cerrito

Taxes must go up

How can people ask for cutting government spending? Look around — everywhere, you see necessary services underfunded.

California is 44th in per-pupil spending, among the last 10 in social and health spending per capita, our child poverty rate is higher than Russia's, we are cutting fire and police services, and infrastructure is failing apart.

Taxes need to go up, not down.

For example, the Vehicle License Fee is part of a legislated mandate for funding community and social services on the county level. If the VLF had been main-

tained, instead of cut back in the 1990s, the resulting additional income would have covered the so-called deficit. (And don't even get me started on the publican budget blackmail that forced a cutback in the first place.)

A Californian earning \$40,000 is in the same tax bracket as one making \$100,000, minus 9 percent. Minimally, and to the former governors Deukmejian and Wilson 11 percent highest rate is needed.

I, for one, would gladly pay 50 percent more taxes if we moved the wealthier — including corporations — to a progressive tax structure and a more social one.

Stephen Ven

No free lunch

The cuts made by the West Contra Costa school board makes me sad.

Today we are reaping what we sowed at the election on March 2. We that are entitled to many benefits, programs and services and that we don't have.

When will we learn there is no free lunch?

Ruth G

Not a good plan

The proposal to include a new library within a large commercial complex on crowded Fairmount Avenue is not only unwise, but in my view, undesirable. I don't recall that the citizens of El Cerrito had any input into the choice of the location for a much-used city facility.

There are only disadvantages to a location. There is heavy traffic at times during library hours, making access not only difficult, but unsafe. Of adequate parking means most users would be forced to use El Cerrito Plaza parking and walk over to the library.

The mezzanine location makes it difficult for senior, disabled, children and mothers with infants.

This location, at the extreme southern border of the city, is inconvenient and unfair to the majority of El Cerrito's public school students need a more centrally located library, especially now that school libraries and librarians have been eliminated. The library will be transformed into a commercial complex lacking a presence of its own.

El Cerrito needs a centrally located library equally accessible to all its citizens and user-friendly to families, students, seniors. El Cerrito needs a new library, part of a carefully planned new development.

El Cerrito deserves better than the portentous approach to a new library. Time is getting short for El Cerrito residents to let their City Council and planning Commission know their position on this decision before the decision is made.

HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

MAIL: 4301 Lakeside Drive,

Richmond, CA 94530

FAX: 510-243-3574

E-MAIL: journal@cctimes.com

Marian

El C

Libraries hold lots more than books



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
At the Library

of the week:
that is why I do not like
us, because there has
been an era when so many
were going so right for so
many wrong persons."

—Golden Nash, 1902-1971

IN THE last month have been asked by a library user to proctor an exam, and I have happy to oblige. But it think about the unusual things a library may do for people may be of. The Reading Edge example: a machine like a small copy machine that reads books

else? Well, at our library, on the shelf between children's reference there is a basket of colored pens — entertainment for small children. There is also a chess set with chess pieces, although not a full set anymore occasionally spot a pawn or a rook. We also have study rooms, desks and electrical outlets people can quietly

study or use their laptops, and we provide word processors and a typewriter. Our glass display case is a great place for someone with a passion for something — like the small cars and trucks now displayed — to share their interest with other library users. We have a bag bin with a sign above it that says "Take a bag, bring a bag," and you can pick up a voter registration card or tax forms while you're here.

At the reference desk, both drawers have items we lend or distribute daily. In one, there is a magnifying glass for those people who suddenly find they need one. Near the drawer, there is a shelf with scratch paper and good paper, and sometimes if someone has donated some or left some) the ever-popular lined paper. The other

drawer holds scissors, tape, Whiteout, colored pens and pencils, a ruler, a calculator, a stapler, Post-its and even a staple remover.

But we don't have pets or artwork to check out, which are two requests mentioned by one of the children's librarians at the Fremont Library. I had asked her what supplies they have and if there was anything unusual she has ever been asked for.

"We have games, like Scrabble and chess," she told me, "and art supplies." Then she told me about the pets. "I've heard there are places you can check out pets," she said, "but not the Fremont Library."

This, of course, started me wondering. Are there places you can go that will let you borrow a pet? And what kind of pets would they be? I did some extensive Google searching and finally came up with the Sulphur Creek Nature Center, which is part of the Hayward Area Recreation Department.

I called and talked to Wendy Winsten, who was friendly and helpful. Yes, she said, they do

lend pets, on Saturdays and Sundays, from 10 to 3. It's \$8 a week and that includes a cage, water and food bowls and a care sheet — as well as the pet, which can be a guinea pig, rat (tricolor brown or white), hamster or mouse. Each rental is only for a week at a time, and then the pet gets a week off. And, incidentally, so do the parents — I still remember my surprise when I learned, through direct experience, that hamsters are nocturnal.

READER REVIEW: This week's book review is from Claire and the book is "Franklin and Winston" by Jon Meacham. Claire says this book is about "the friendship and politics of Churchill and Roosevelt during World War II." One word she would use to describe it is "informative" and she recommends it because "their friendship and regard for each other shaped policy."

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at jwinkelstein@aclibrary.org or at the Albany Library.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

arians at the Alameda County Library have created the "Storytimes To Go" kits to children become ready for kindergarten. Each kit contains storybooks, a puppet, a video and an instructional book.

Storytimes To Go" kits have been funded by Every Child Counts and the Alameda County Library Foundation with the TRIO Foundation.

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Volunteers from the American Association of Retired Persons are offering free tax help for taxpayers with middle and low incomes, with special attention to those 60 years and older, at the Albany Library on Thursdays from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. through April. Make appointments at the Library's Reference Desk.

The Albany Library, a branch of the Alameda County Library,

library.org. Search under "Title"

for "Storytimes To Go" in the catalogue. Kits may be reserved for checkout online or at your local library.

Calendar

PAGE A6

We bring your feet and a smile. Bring your feet and a smile. No experience necessary. Opportunity for families to dance and have fun together. Drop in for good fun all ages welcome. Drop-in or registration needed. Adults \$3, \$2. Details: 632-3713.

Dance Classes: Learn East Coast Swing and Lindy Hop with Linda and Persephone of Shagtime Dance, on Mondays at the Shagtime Dance Studio, 2566 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. Lindy Hop runs 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., East Coast Swing from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., and beginning Lindy Hop 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, at The 160 Ninth St. Classes run as a series. Details: Michael Maran, 510-3785.

Health

Health and Community Education classes in dance, fitness, martial arts and more; University 2600 Bancroft Way, 848-6370; www.berkeleycityclub.org.

Learning

Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Avenue, non-profit private social club, offers weekly yoga class for seniors 10 a.m. on Saturday's. The taught by Rosie Linsky, who has practiced yoga for over 40 years. Open to non-members for \$8 a month. For more information, call Karen 546-7800.

Berkeley Adult School offers ceramics classes from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays at the St. John's Senior Center, College Ave. Classes are free, and a firing charge is not offered at a minimal charge. For more information, call Diana Bohn 848-6370.

John's Prime Timers Senior Center: Berkeley offers classes in everything from ceramics, copper engraving, wood working, weaving, crepe paper and tap dancing. There are presentations on matters of current interest and slide presentations once a month. Classes are on-going. New members and seniors over 50 are welcome. Lunch and friendly conversations are offered at a minimal charge. St. John's Presbyterian Church, College Avenue, Berkeley. Call 546-7800 for time and schedules.

Internet Workshops take place in the El Cerrito Library, 6510 San Pablo Ave. Learn the basics of the mouse skills, email, web surfing and the library's on-line catalog databases. Classes are free of charge. Alternate Saturday mornings from 11 a.m. Call 510-526-7512 to register.

Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., offers ongoing chess instruction from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The range from fundamental to advanced, and also casual play. Class is led by David Pruess, the Senior Master title and is the top chess players and teach California. All levels are welcome to all sets are provided. Call Julie at 510-526-3720 ext. 19.

Chess Classes: Mondays 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Arlington Community Center, 133 Arlington Ave. (across from Washington Library). Simple, clear rules for people of all levels. Emphasis on music and fun. Cost: \$30 for session (pro-rated fees apply), drop in session. Details: Mel 548-5289 before 9 p.m.

Senior Employment offers a program for income-eligible seniors 55 and older living in Oakland, Berkeley and Albany. Earn money, learn. Interested in working with children? You can receive college funding paid. Details: 238-3554.

Morgan Center for the Arts, College Ave., offers family-friendly classes, workshops and activities by professional teaching artists at all stages of bringing arts participation into everyday lives. Details: 845-7852.

Berkeley Adult School offers Basic Education classes, High School Diploma Requirement classes, and Educational Development classes which can be used for a GED certificate, and Preparation for US Citizenship classes. The classes are free, BAS also offers, for an additional fee, a variety of vocational and introductory and advanced classes. Details: 644-6130.

Turner Clinic sponsored by Turners Center at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, are held on Monday evenings from 9:45 by appointment. Session fees are \$15 for YWCA members and \$20 for non-members. Call 548-6370 and leave a message to make an appointment time.

Community Media, Channel 13, offers affordable classes in video production and editing to Berkeley residents. Free orientations designed to teach the public how to use the equipment. Classes are held on Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at 2239 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Details: 848-6370 and ask for Patrick, John or Sage.

1317 San Pablo Ave., offers classes ranging from African Katalali Dances of India, to Salsa Swing to Lindy Hop and more.

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East Coast Swing, Ashkenaz is a nonprofit music and dance community center. Details: 525-5054 in Life Stories/College and Ceramics classes forming at St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave., Tuesday mornings 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. Free Sponsored by Berkeley Adult School. Details: 845-6830.

Dance and fitness classes open to all in flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, belly dance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, theater dance, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, aikido, pilates-based body conditioning and more at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Drop in fees: \$8-10. Information: 848-6370.

Let's Swing and Jitterbug: 7 p.m., beginning classes, 8 p.m. intermediate; four-week dance classes begin the first Tuesday of the month; Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley, Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40 for four classes.

Lecture/workshop

The Berkeley Camera Club meets every Tuesday evening, at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Don, 510-525-3565 or visit the Web site at www.berkeleycameraclub.org.

Tai Chi Chuan and Chi-kung classes take place at Berkeley Unitarian Church at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and 9 a.m. Saturday mornings at Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St. People of all ages and physical conditions are welcome to practice. Donation: \$65. 268-4995.

The YWCA offers free orientations of its **Turning Point Career Center**. The orientations outline resources available at the center's workshops and other offerings. They are held every Tuesday, at 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way. Donation: \$65. 268-6370.

Learn computer applications for the working world Using Windows '95 and '98 and Microsoft Office 2000 software, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Publisher. Classes offered: Monday-Friday, 2:15-6:15 p.m. Location: Contra Costa County Office of Education, 13925 San Pablo Ave., Suite No. 111, San Pablo. 237-0840 or www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/rop.

Literature

Cody's Books (2454 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) presents scholar and human rights activist Nafeez Mosadeq Ahmed author of "Behind The War Terror: Western Secret Strategy and the Struggle For Iraq," at 7:30 p.m. March 26. Ahmed examines the Western policy in Iraq and the Persian Gulf region from the early 20th century through the recent invasion. Ahmed directs the Institute for Policy Research and Development in Britain; he is also the author of "War on Freedom." He is a former senior researcher at the Islamic Human Rights Commission. Free. Details: 510-845-7852.

Author Mary Tolman Kent will share from her book "Closing the Circle," 2-4 p.m. March 21, Berkeley History Center, 1931 Center St. The book, Kent's memoir about life in Berkeley, covers such events as World War II, the Loyalty Oath Controversy, and the social change of the 1960s and '70s. Admission free. Call 510-848-0181 for more information, or visit the Web page at www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/histsoc/.

A free publication party and reading from "In Deep," a book of poetry by Kirk Lumpkin, takes place 4-6 p.m. Sunday, March 28 at Ecotopia Center Bookstore, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Preceded and followed by live jazz performed by the Real Band. Details: 510-548-2220, ext. 227; www.kirklumpkin.com.

Meetings/lectures

The League of Women Voters sponsors Dr. Marty Lynch, CEO of Berkeley's Lifelong Medical Care Association, and other professionals at 6:30 p.m. March 22, at the Berkeley Central Library, 2090 Kittredge St., third floor meeting room. The discussion will focus on the current Universal health care system, Medicare, recent reform efforts, single payer plans, and innovative approaches to the system. For more information, call 510-843-8824.

Grizzly Peak Flyfishers, a group dedicated to furthering the noble sport

of fly fishing through education and conservation, holds its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. March 11, at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., in Kensington. Cliff Sullivan, a well-known fly tier will show some of his patterns and demonstrate his techniques. Expert, beginning and "wannabe" fly fishers are all welcome. For more information, call Richard Orlando at 510-547-8629.

Powderhounds, a ski, snowboard and social club meet the second Tuesdays, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Oakland Hilton, Amelia restaurant, 1 Hegenberger Rd., and fourth Tuesdays 7 to 9 p.m. at Jupiter, 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Call 510-769-7669 or visit the Web site at www.powderhounds.com.

Berkeley Camera Club meet Tuesday evenings, 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more information, call Don 510-525-3565 or visit the Web site at www.berkeleycameraclub.org.

St. John's Prime Timers meet on Tuesday mornings at 2727 College Ave. Sharon Stalkefet will speak about her ministry to four local nursing homes at 11 a.m. Dec. 16. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, call 510-845-6830.

Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., presents poetry events: First Thursdays include Open Mike and Featured Poet sessions from 7 to 9 p.m. Second Wednesdays are drop-in Poetry Writing Workshops, for all ages. Second Saturdays are drop-in Poetry Writing Workshops for grades 4-8. All three events are free and on-going. Light refreshments will be served. Call Julie Winkelstein at 510-526-3720 ext. 20 for more information.

Storytelling for Adults, a group of storytellers and listeners, who love to listen to stories, to keep the oral tradition alive, meet from 7 to 8:45 p.m. on the first Thursday each month at the Claremont Branch, Berkeley Public Library, 1940 Benvenue, at Ashby. Free. 610-644-6880; or 525-1533.

The Reading Edge is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library, 2090 Kittredge St. This computer scans printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available for anyone with a disability who requires its use to access print material. Users must compete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge, after that, reservations are needed. Call at 644-6648 to set up a training session.

The El Cerrito Toastmasters offers basic public speaking and leadership activities and programs. Speakers of all skill levels are invited to come, observe and participate. Meetings occur every second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. For more information contact Jim Bruce at jim@peachpit.com.

Kol Hadash, the Bay Area's only Jewish Humanistic Congregation, with more than 110 family members from around the Bay Area, meets on the fourth Friday of each month for a regular Shabbat (Sabbath), every other month on a Saturday for a Family Shabbat. The group holds Sunday school classes two Sundays a month, celebrates all the major Jewish holidays and holds special events from time to time. Location: Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. 428-1492.

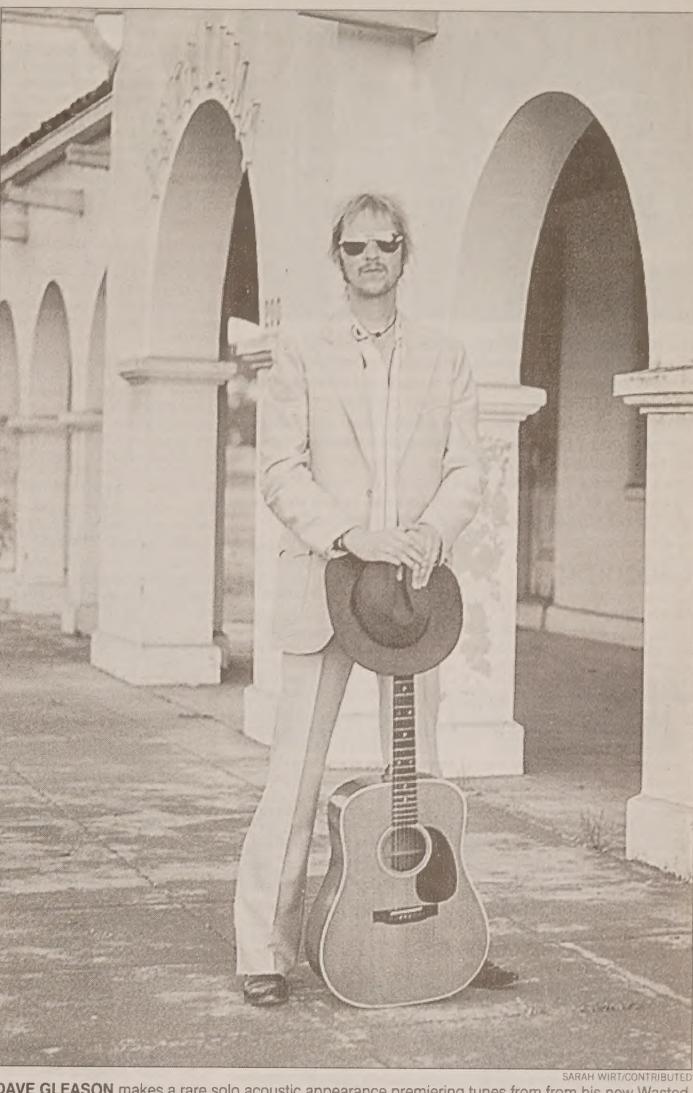
St. John's Prime Timers in Berkeley offers ongoing classes at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave. Classes include exercises, ceramics, copper enameling, woodworking, weaving, creative writing, and tap dancing (Thursdays). New members are always welcome, especially seniors' over 50. Call 845-6830 for more information.

The Center for Independent Living announces its newly created Asian Outreach Program to assist Asian individuals with disabilities, particularly new immigrants. Providing services and advocacy in Cantonese, Vietnamese, and

See CALENDAR, Page A8

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SARAH WIRT/CONTRIBUTED
DAVE GLEASON makes a rare solo acoustic appearance premiering tunes from his new Wasted Days CD, "Midnight California" on Saturday, March 20 at 2 p.m. at Down Home Music, 10341 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. On Saturday, March 27, at 2 p.m. Down Home continues its series of free performances, hosting bluegrass artists Laurie Lewis and Tom Rozum celebrating the release of their new CD, Guest House, on Hightone Records. Performances are free. Details: 510-525-2129.

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Calendar

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English, program staff are culturally sensitive and knowledgeable of community and government service available to individuals with disabilities. For more information, call CIC at 510-763-9999.

■ **Friendship Circle**, a Jewish club for older adults, meet 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at the Oakland Senior Center, 200 Grand Ave. The club is an outreach program of Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center. Activities include day trips, Jewish holiday celebrations, theater outings, entertainment, speaker and much more. Call Maria at 848-0237 ext. 115 for details.

■ Improve your speaking skills by attending **Berkeley Communicators' Toastmaster meetings**, the first and third Wednesdays each month at 7:15 a.m. at Vault's Cafe, 3250 Adeline St. Call 527-2337 for more information.

■ The **Berkeley Camera Club** meets Tuesday evenings 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are

doing. Monthly field trips. For more details call Don at 525-3665.

■ **Disabled American Veterans Chapter** 25 meets on the third Tuesday of the month. The evening begins with a no host dinner and fellowship at 7 p.m. at 2068 Center St. A short business meeting follows at 8 p.m. at 1931 Center St., the Veterans Memorial Building. Price: \$3. Women who have had relatives in the US Military are invited to attend and join the auxiliary. For more details call R. DeRita, Cmdr. D.A.V. Chapter 25, 916-372-8364.

■ **The Berkeley Avatar Metaphysics Toastmasters Club** meet on the first and third Thursdays, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., at 2515 Hillegass Ave. Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together. For details, call 869-2547 or 643-7645.

■ **The Kensington Senior Activity Center** meets on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. The center's community program of life-long learning is presented by the West Contra Costa Adult School. Attend any class or event you choose. Everyone over 55 is welcome. Details: 526-9146 or 547-1969.

■ Speak Smart! Join **Beijing Express Toastmasters**, The Smart Club! Meetings take place each Monday, 6:15 to

7:30 p.m. at Peking Express Restaurant, 2068 Center St. For additional information call 549-9671.

■ **Toastmasters**: Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice with us. Every Tuesday, Noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Berkeley. Call 883-6708 for more information.

■ **The Berkeley Avatar Metaphysics Toastmasters Club** meet on the second and third Fridays of each month (except December) 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Maffly Auditorium, Merrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. For additional information call 204-4503.

■ **Toastmasters on Campus** meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the English Language Program Building, 2515 Hillegass. Details: 704-1822.

■ **"Voices of Healing"** is a group exploring the psychological and spiritual dimensions of illness and healing. The group meets on the second Friday of each month, 1 to 2:30 p.m. in North Berkeley. Call 528-1235 for more information.

■ **State Health Toastmasters** meet every second, third and fourth Thursday of the month from 12:10-1:10 p.m. at the State Health building, 2151 Berkeley Way. Details: 649-7750.

■ **Higher Alignment**: 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Mondays; fun, informative seminars creating spiritual partnerships; Feldenkrais Center, 830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 415-461-5337; \$20.

■ **Alpha Bates Support Groups** - Arthritis Support Group meets the second Tuesday of every month; 1-2:30 p.m.; 415-461-5337; \$20.

■ **Oversaters Anonymous**, a 12-step

program providing free help with eating problems, meets every Saturday at 9:30 a.m. at 2727 College Ave. and in the basement every Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Capital, 901 Nevins (take Elmhurst, third floor). For further information call 273-9292.

See CALENDAR, H



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In February, a team of award-winning Times photojournalists converged upon El Cerrito and Kensington to document one day – 24 contiguous hours – in both cities.

Many of these photos are featured in a special section published in the Contra Costa Times on March 6.

For this exhibit, we asked each photographer to select one of his/her favorite shots, whether or not they were published in the section.

Photographers:

Dean Coppola
Mark DuFrene
Joanna Jhanda

Bob Larson
Sherry LaVars
Karl Mondon

Bob Pepper
Kristen...
Tue N...

We invite you to view these stunning photographs at the El Cerrito Community Center through the month of March.

Our thanks to the El Cerrito Community Center for hosting this exhibit.

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Cameras

PAGE A1

amount of graffiti, reduced spray-painting on the school board members voted out of the cameras because they were not intrusive and would cut down on the problems. One resident said without the cameras,

the high school would become complacent if there was a real fire emergency.

"If it takes putting in cameras to reduce vandalism and a loss of school spirit, I'm in favor of it," said a parent.

Not everyone agreed. During the public comment portion of the discussion, some residents called the cameras a "quick fix" and asked the school board to instead focus on the root causes of the problems by using the money

to hire more counselors.

"What I'm seeing is a culture of mistrust," said parent Amy Freeman, adding that the mistrust extended to using breathalyzers to measure intoxication at school dances. The school board approved breathalyzers in 2002.

Eighteen surveillance cameras — 10 interior and eight exterior — are scheduled to be installed at the high school by the end of the school year. Cameras will be installed at Albany Middle School

the following year and at the city's three elementary schools the year after that.

The total cost for the cameras will be \$50,000, paid for through various state grants.

Signs will be posted where the cameras will be in use and the records can be used in student disciplinary proceedings or released to law enforcement agencies for their investigation, according to the resolution approved by the school board.

The principal will oversee the implementation and operation of the video recording systems, which will not be regularly monitored. The cameras are "intended to read and store the images for future reference upon reasonable suspicion" and known or reported incidents.

Recordings, which will not include audio, will be erased or destroyed after 30 days. The recording equipment must be kept in a secure locked area in the principal's office.

Wong said that dealing with the roots of the problems at the schools is important but so is enforcing the rules.

"If we could always deal with the root of it, there would be less need for law enforcement and unfortunately that's not the way it works," Wong said. "For some people, no matter what education you provide, some enforcement will have to be done."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or alopez@cctimes.com.

Humane

PAGE A1

and O'Connor said he eventually to establish a relationship between the city-owned Animal Society and the privately funded Humane Society, with a more effective model. One possible model is San Francisco, the animal shelter concerned with rounding up strays, a humane society concerned on finding them new homes.

animal groups are awaiting Carlson's accession with enthusiasm.

seems already to be friends and building

said Linda McCormick, president of Fix Our Ferals. "I

her last week, and she

called me right back. In the old days, that would have never happened. It's so refreshing, and so much what Berkeley needs — an end to all the frustrations and finger-pointing that have kept us from working together."

Carlson said another top priority will be expanding the number of mobile animal adoption units, not only in selected sites in Berkeley, but also in Albany, El Cerrito and Kensington.

"We want them to know that we're their Humane Society, too," she said. "We have some awfully cute dogs and cats to adopt, and we also have valuable services to offer pet owners, including dog training classes, humane education, and our Caretaker program, which finds a loving new home for your pet if you die."

One beneficiary of the Caretaker program is Claude the cat, a venerable, cream-colored tom of indeterminate age, who graciously condescends to share his office at the Humane Society with Carlson.

"He's been here longer than any of us, and many of us have been here for more than 10 years," she said while obediently scratching him behind his ears, as he demanded. "Everyone here fell in love with him, and vice-versa, so it was decided that instead of adopting him out, he'd be the office cat."

Claude has ruled the roost ever since, wandering from room to room at will. For his convenience, multiple food dishes, water bowls, and litter boxes are placed at strategic locations throughout the building.

He also has a day job as the Humane Society's dog temperament evaluator.

"We use him to test all our dogs," said shelter manager Vicki Chin. "He's so mellow, nothing frightens him. So if he tenses up around a dog, we take it as an early warning sign, and we make sure that dog doesn't go to a home that has cats."

For now, Carlson's job title has "interim" attached to it. But Shiro left no doubt that as far as the board is concerned, the search for a permanent executive director is already over.

"Are you kidding?" he said with a laugh. "She brings to the table a rare combination of temperament, ability and experience. We're lucky to have her."

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or msnapp@cctimes.com.

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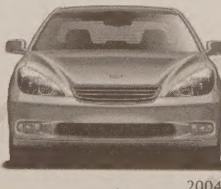
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Safety

FROM PAGE A1

into his home. Others agreed that there's a lot of speeding traffic on Arlington and that slowing it is a desirable goal.

"Residents along Arlington have noted accidents involving their cars parked alongside the road as well as ran-off-road types of accidents," according to a report by traffic consultants TJKM Transportation Consultants.

It was these concerns the council was attempting to address when it authorized \$25,000 for improvements on Arlington.

However, several residents voiced opposition to a recommendation that stop signs be placed at the intersection of Arlington Boulevard at Moeser Lane and Terrace Drive.

Terrace Drive resident Bertha McKinley was one of several residents who said she would love to see traffic slowed down but the stop sign would increase the amount of traffic that stops near her home, increasing noise and pollution along with it.

"It's a horrible intersection and we would love to see it made better, but we feel we will bear the brunt of the negative impacts on this one," she said.

Others strongly supported the stop signs, including Michael Simchic, who said additional stop signs would help make Arlington a "civil" street for motorists.

Choi said he left the meeting satisfied, because he got he was asking for — "type-K markers" that would illuminate what he considered to be a "blind intersection" at Arbor Drive and Arlington Boulevard.

"The more visibility and the more signage we have, then the more people are aware of around the corner," Choi said.

Other residents said they wanted a stronger police presence on Arlington Boulevard as

well as improvements at Madera Drive, where Madera Elementary School is located.

By a 3-2 vote, the council approved two stop signs at Arlington Boulevard — one at Moeser Lane and the other at Terrace Drive. Councilwoman Gina Brusatori and Councilman Mark Friedman dissented.

According to the TJKM report, a stop sign was justified at Moeser Lane because a motorist could not see conflicting traffic, unless that conflicting traffic is also required to stop.

The council unanimously approved several other recommendations from the list made up by consultants TJKM.

They are:

- Installing advance "Limited sight distance" warning signs on Arlington Boulevard for northbound traffic 200 feet south of Havens/Villa Nueva and 200 feet north of Brewster for southbound traffic.

- Installing "type-K" markers on either side of Arlington Boulevard from 150 to 300 feet north of the north crosswalk at Moeser Lane. The markers resemble "reflective paddles" intended to better show the boundaries of the road.

Moving the stop line for east-bound Potrero Avenue to match the location of the west curb line of Arlington Boulevard. That would give motorists coming from Potrero Avenue better access to see traffic moving on Arlington Boulevard.

Clark said the traffic improvements will be studied to see how effective they are and there will be new recommendations or changes if need be. In addition, the traffic study will be expanded to include Arlington Boulevard north of Moeser Lane as well as Barrett Avenue.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

Aid

FROM PAGE A1

partment has not authorized the refinancing.

Hancock hopes the influence of Schwarzenegger and Riordan can help.

"(If the loan is refinanced,) the money saved would go to libraries, athletics and school counselors, which are some of the things that they've had to cut," Hancock said. "It would mean an enormous amount to these young people."

District Superintendent Gloria Johnston said she is optimistic the governor will respond to the legislators' request.

Fields

FROM PAGE A1

The park district has applied for \$5.5 million in grants from the state to develop the fields, in two grant applications that are expected to be awarded this summer.

A condition of the grant is that work related to CEQA — such as an environmental analysis — be conducted within one year of the award. Albany and Berkeley are acting now to start that process.

"Everything is lined up to make (the project) happen," Pollard said. "I think the feeling is if Albany can help make something happen sooner and better for the Albany community and neighboring com-

munities particularly for kids, to

get them ball fields — I think the feeling is, 'Let's do it.'

If all of the grant money applied for is not allocated, Berkeley and Albany will each pay for half the costs of the work for the environmental review.

How much grant money is approved will also affect how many ball fields can be built at the site, said Albany recreation director Melinda Chinn. Five ball fields are being sought at the site, but that number will be scaled down if the grants are not entirely approved.

The City Council, by a 4-0 vote agreed to allocate up to \$100,000 for the cost of the environmental law requirements at its Monday, March 15 meeting. Councilwoman Peggy Thomsen was absent.

City officials said ball field

backers as well as environmentalists are supportive of the JPA, with the hope that it will ultimately lead to much-needed play space ball fields for area children.

"The kids in the whole JPA area really need playing fields so I'm glad the way it's gone and hopefully the grant comes through," said Councilwoman Jewel Okawachi.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

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Real Estate & Home

using supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclarion, The Piedmonter

Friday, March 19, 2004

Section B



MAINTAINING IS KEY at this home in Seattle, Washington, with one bedroom, five baths and lots of the home's only true bedroom, a master suite, has two fireplaces.

Dream homes: a window into how we've changed

ELIZABETH RHODES

THE SEATTLE TIMES

1954 sufficed with a portico, an unfinished recreation room and a more straightforward ratio of three bedrooms and two baths.

So why has the look of the architecturally designed home changed so dramatically in five decades? In part, because the way we live has changed — inspiring home-theater rooms, high-tech offices and supersized kitchens.

But more than that, the changes reflect homeowners' intense quest to express their individuality — indeed, it's seen almost as a birthright — combined with their growing affluence. Today, their dreams are unrestricted by most traditional no-

tions of what a house ought to be — provided they have the vision, the money and the architect.

"Architects don't work in convention. They work when convention is broken," said University of Illinois research architect William Rose.

Wu, whose \$2 million-plus North Seattle home on the Lake Washington waterfront attracted hundreds of visitors at a January open house, had a clear vision of what she wanted: large volumes of open space and few rooms.

"Because I'm a single woman and I have experience with real estate for 30-some-odd years and I've looked at the Street of Dreams, my

feeling is most of the time people have too many rooms and they don't go into them," she said. "So I created spaces with multiple uses so I won't waste any space."

Plenty of people dream of a custom home, and plenty, too, shake their heads at such high-end, unconventional design.

But Wu's wowed many who toured Joyce McKinnon of Holmes Point, Wash. She and her husband, Ed, visit architect-designed open houses to see the newest ideas.

They agreed that Wu's demonstrated that architects are in the forefront of innovation.

"This is more great room, not so formalized, more multiuse," said McK-

Real Estate Spotlight:

Piedmont Craftsman built by Julia Morgan



DESIGNED BY JULIA MORGAN IN 1908-09, 326 El Cerrito Avenue in Piedmont is a meticulously maintained Craftsman home, wonderful for family and entertaining. The pergola-shaded porch and leaded glass front door open to the paneled foyer and formal staircase. The dramatic living room with new burnished steel fireplace complements the traditional dining room with built-in buffet, china cabinets and window seat. Julia Morgan also designed delicate square and circular leaded glass detail in the large windows throughout and an exceptional library with diamond-paned windows, turn of the century tile floor, atrium and colored glass skylight.

The kitchen and family room open to the patio for outdoor dining and entertaining, while the wine cellar stores wine for special occasions. The upstairs has 4 bedrooms and 2 baths, including master bedroom with fireplace and dressing room, a second library/sitting area and hobby/storage room. The third floor has a second family room with balcony and expansive bay views, two bedrooms, bath and office. The deep yard, reminiscent of past estates, has a gazebo, private irrigation well and newly landscaped rose and vegetable gardens.

Price: \$4.3 million, shown by appointment only.

Listing agent: Gina Chrys of Prudential Realty, 510-835-6089 or gina.chrys@prurealty.com.

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Why has the look of the architecturally designed home changed so dramatically in five decades? In part, because the way we live has changed — inspiring home-theater rooms, high-tech offices and supersized kitchens.

Inn. "We have an architect-designed house, and we're glad because we could personalize it."

That's typical of custom-home clients, said Seattle architect David Fukui. "(They) have money, they have taste, they know what professionals do, and they want something beyond what they can just

buy going into the classifieds on Sunday."

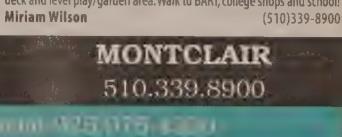
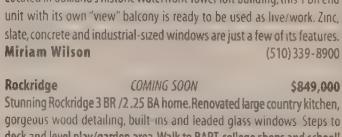
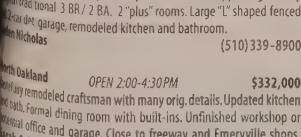
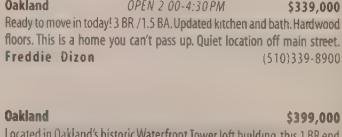
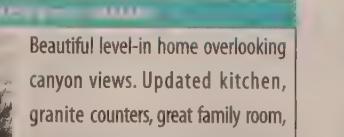
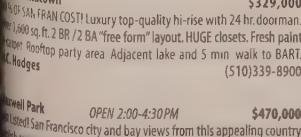
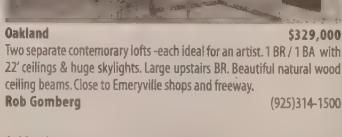
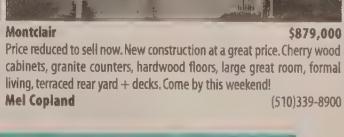
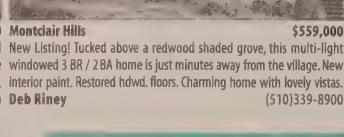
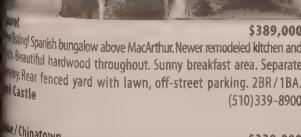
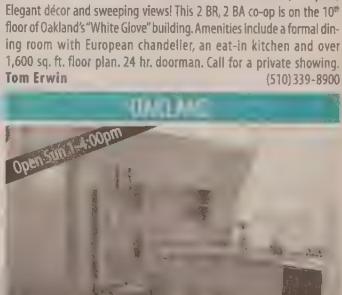
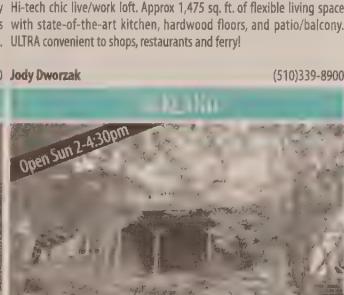
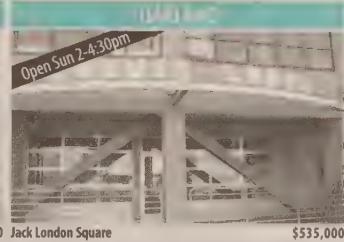
That's exactly why Wu shared her vision with architect W. Carlton Lambert.

Wu's house epitomizes the large glass-and-stucco ultramodern style.

See DREAM, Page B3

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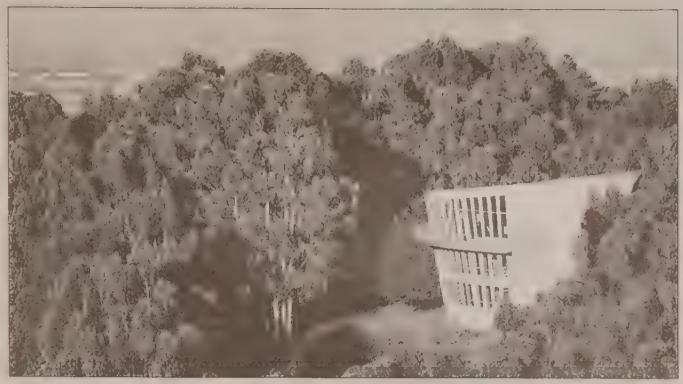
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Real Estate Focus:**Modern masterpiece by Art Busse**

A NEWLY COMPLETED HOME IN AN EXQUISITE NATURAL SETTING at the top of the Oakland hills, Cambio, designed by Art Busse of Lyric Design, has been described by many who have seen it as the Guggenheim of home design and has attracted the praise of poets and architects alike. Lucas Goetttsche of Eric Lloyd Wright's firm in Malibu has called it "...rare and unique...a daring achievement that must be experienced to be appreciated". Poet and best selling author Elizabeth Rosner says, "To enter Cambio is to be offered a new horizon, to discover what it means to be moved by space." She sees it as "A collaboration of the modern and the primitive, earth and sky, gravity and transcendence." calls Cambio "...a house meant to set lives in motion." With this design I've given expression to the notion of change. More importantly, I've created habitable spaces that actually engender in us the very physical sensations of movement, projection and acceleration, from which the notion of change arises."

It has 4,500 square feet on three levels, four bedrooms and three plus bathrooms, Bay views, grand entry stairs with glass wall entrance.

Price: \$2,150,000. Open Sunday, March 21, 2 - 4 p.m.

Agent: Nancy Platford and Julie Lehman, Prudential California, Berkeley, 510-845-0211.

Key concepts for women investors

Women today have more earning potential and more influence over financial decisions than ever before. Women represent almost half of the workforce and many businesses are owned or managed by women. Many women influence or control the majority of all consumer purchase decisions and many of the investment decisions. As you can see, it is important for women focus on finances now more than ever.

Whether you are a business owner, a stay at home mom or working in a corporate environment, learning to manage your money should be a priority. As a woman, throughout your life you will be faced with different financial challenges than your male counterparts. If you are going to take control of your financial future, it is important that you recognize those differences and empower yourself.

There are several reasons you should have a financial plan and pay attention to your investments. Let us take a look at some of these reasons:

Longer life expectancy. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, women outlive

men by an average of seven years. As you live longer, you face more years in retirement and may spend these years alone. You will want to make sure that if you should find yourself in this situation, you are confident in your financial knowledge.

Being on your own. You may be on your own at some point in your financial life, whether it is before getting married, after a divorce or following a spouse's death. These experiences can be an emotional time in your life, so you will want to be sure that you have a solid understanding about your finances in order to know what your next steps should be.

Time spent out of the workforce. Generally speaking, women tend to spend more time away from work than men, whether caring for children or for an elderly parent. Even if you are not currently in the workforce earning money, it is still important stay in touch with your finances.

The key to navigating these and other challenges is to have a well-rounded investment plan. The good news is that it is never too early or too late to begin planning for your



LEILA GOUGH
Money Matters

future. Here are a few steps you can take now to help ensure your financial security:

Determine your financial goals. Make a list of your financial goals including any specific needs your children may have. Once your goals are determined, you should determine the steps necessary to achieve these goals. Regardless of what your plan includes, the important thing is to have your goals clearly defined and identify the right tools to reach them.

Seek the advice of a financial consultant. It is important to find a financial consultant that you can trust and with whom you feel comfortable. By seeking a professional, you will not be giving up your decision-making power, but enlisting

See GOUGH, Page B5

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That was then . . . a look back at our beginnings

Number 457 in a series of true experiences in real estate

The first column in this series appeared in print in March 1993, 11 years ago. We were a young company then and the column provided a way for us to tell who we are, to make contact with people who wouldn't have known us otherwise and to explain what was going on in real estate.

Our columns in that first year urged buyers to think, to decide if they wanted to buy, or not. Because deciding seemed to be what was lacking. There were plenty of people at open houses. We and other agents were working with people who said that they were buyers. But many of them weren't buying

The pace was slow, with buyers taking their own sweet time. They were picky, and they were worried. They didn't know how long they'd have to stay in a house before they'd be able to sell for the same price, or more. Would prices go up, or down?

Buyers expected to negotiate, to have the termite and roof work done and paid for, and not by them. Many looked long and hesitated, often for such a long time that it was too late for them to get what they had hoped for.

The market was different than it is now in a number of ways. Prices were of course lower while interest rates were higher and rising. It was just the beginning of multiple offers. They occurred only occasionally, and buyers hated it, many of them telling their agents they wouldn't offer on a house if they had to compete for it.

There were so many houses for sale that the buyers would simply move on to others. I wrote that in a typical week there were about 200 houses on tour, too many by far for us or our clients to see.

But we tried. In one column I told about our buyers who in only 8 weeks managed to see 152 houses. Then exhausted, tired of the whole process, they chose one.

The house wasn't ideal, they complained. In fact, for 2 weeks after getting into contract they agonized over their choice. Maybe they hadn't looked long enough, hadn't "tried on" enough possibilities, maybe there was a better one out there.

Sellers then usually got a termite report. It used to be common for the seller to credit back in escrow the amount of the bid. So buyers were buying "as is" but what they did with the money was up to them. Often it helped pay their closing costs.

Eleven years ago, very few sellers had a general physical inspection done before marketing. Buyers got their own reports, learned what was wrong with the house, and although it didn't happen every time, often prices were renegotiated downwards to cover the cost of repairs.

And while sellers were advised by their agents to spiff up their

The market was different in March 1993 than it is now in a number of ways. Prices were lower while interest rates were higher and rising. There were so many houses for sale that the buyers would simply move on to others. I wrote that in a typical week there were about 200 houses on tour, too many by far for us or our clients to see.

houses to make them look their best, professional staging was rare. When this column was new, we had a listing in Berkeley's Elmwood, the first we ever had staged.

The staging was minimal — a rocking chair, ottoman and rug, a few pictures on the walls and a bowl full of lemons in the kitchen. Otherwise, the house was empty. We turned to staging then because we were in love with what we had accomplished in that house and wanted others to be too.

The owner, a man in his 60s, was selling because he was about to make a large life change — en-



TARPPOFF AND ASSOCIATES

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WHEN THE DOOR LEAKED AND ROTTED

THE OWNER SHUT THE DOOR

PLACE WAS DAMAGED

QUAKE, HE PUT A DOOR

FRONT DOOR

ABOUT

WE HAD A WONDERFUL

ING ON THAT HOUSE

CLEANED AND PAINTED

WITH ITS OWN BARN

WAS PLowed AND LET IN

FURNACE, ROOF, FLOOR,

COUNTERS WERE REPLACED

FIND ROOM IN THE

BUT IN THE FIREPLACE.

THE HOUSE IS PRISTINE.

PRISINGLY, IT SOLD FOR

PRICE. BUT EVEN IF

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HILLS NEWSPAPERS

BERKELEY VOICE / THE JOURNAL / MONTGOMERY

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Time and death: funerary art in the Bay Area

Four of four parts
In two of this series I wrote
about the Oakland Columbarium
and the Chapel of the Chimes, after it
was built. In print I received several
letters from readers asking about
columbaria and their origins. So
today, I will share the results
of my research on this fascinating
and somewhat mysterious
subject of funeral art.



MARK WILSON
Owning A Piece of History

columbaria remaining in the Bay Area. One is on Oakland's Howe Street behind the Chapel of the

ON LEADS TOUR TOMORROW

Mark Wilson will lead an architectural walking tour of Piedmont Avenue that includes the Chapel of the Chimes, the Oakland Columbarium, part of the View Cemetery and other historic sites. The tour will take place tomorrow at 2:15 p.m. Meet in front of the Chapel of the Chimes, 4900 Piedmont in Oakland. The fee is \$10 per person, payable at the start of the tour. Wilson can be reached at markw@aoi.com to ask questions or to RSVP.

for the deposit of cinerary urns." The word finds its root in the Latin word for dove, *avis*, and first appeared in England in 1666 with the meaning "dovecote" as a dovecote that houses the ashes of departed loved ones (doves) in niches.

A columbarium can be defined as a dovecote that houses the remains of departed loved ones (doves) in niches. Cremation as a method of dealing with the remains of departed ones was not used in the United States until the mid-19th century, a revival of interest in Roman architecture and customs throughout the country. Cremation was re-introduced in France in the Napoleonic era.

There are only three functioning columbaria remaining in the Bay Area. One is on Oakland's Howe Street behind the Chapel of the Chimes, completed in about 1911. Another is the Neptune Society, on Santa Rosa Boulevard in Santa Rosa, designed by Julia Morgan and built between 1926 and 1928. The third one is in San Francisco.

The architectural style of columbaria, both in Europe and in the United States, usually incorporated such Roman motifs as a central domed courtyard, or rotunda, usually with an atrium or skylight in the middle.

Sometimes columbaria include a portico, or colonnaded porch, at the entrance, inspired by the Pantheon in Rome — the Oakland Columbarium has this feature.

But by far the largest, and old-

est remaining columbarium in the Bay Area is at One Loraine Court (off Anza Street) in San Francisco's Richmond District.

It used to stand in the middle of a 167 acre cemetery, which is

See WILSON, Page B6

came more common in new developments.

But new design concepts can come from practically anywhere:

■ Kitchen islands: In the late 1950s or early '60s, the National Association of Home Builders promoted changes in plumbing trap-arm regulations that made it possible to vent a sink that wasn't against a wall. Thus, said research architect Rose, came the solution to, "How do you do an island sink and not have it stink up with sewer gas?"

■ The kitchen work triangle: Research by University of Illinois home economist Helen McCullough in the early 1950s showed that cooks were taking too many time-wasting steps between the sink, range and refrigerator. So today's builders employ the "work-triangle" concept to ensure the three essentials aren't too far apart.

■ PVC: In 1926, fresh out of the University of Washington with a Ph.D. in chemistry, Waldo Semon invented polyvinyl chloride — PVC — that's now used in everything from door frames to plumbing fittings, roofing tiles and, most importantly, electrical wire insulation.

The use of PVC showed up incrementally and affected houses' safety, durability and cost-efficiency.

In the 1950s, homes designed by Seattle-area architects weren't that different from high-end pro-

duction homes, said architect Jeffrey Ochsner, a University of Washington architecture history professor. Now, the work of architects and builders "is fairly far apart. There's a lot more variety in what architects are doing today."

That makes it difficult to pigeonhole custom architecture stylistically. "The trend is going both ways - to bigger houses and to smaller houses," said Britsch. They're just as likely to be flat-roofed stucco à la Southern California as they are woodsy Northwest contemporary.

Seattle architects say the typical custom home is 2,500 to 5,000 square feet and costs \$200 to \$400 a square foot to build. So a mid-range home would cost just over \$1 million, plus land costs. By comparison, the cost of a quality home in a new development is more like \$100 to \$150 a square foot, plus land costs.

But for Wu, cost was not the issue. Design was the thing: a home that worked for her single but highly social lifestyle, a place where more than 100 guests can comfortably talk, watch TV, sing karaoke, enjoy her art collection and see the meal being prepared.

"I like the open feeling of peace and communication with my guests; it's more to my lifestyle," said a satisfied Wu. "It's a peacefully friendly space I created."

As cooking became more social and more on-the-run, open-plan kitchens accommodated both extremes. And technological advances made it possible for people to work and play at home in more sophisticated ways. Workout rooms, big closets and huge garages be-

came as standard features.

Today, even those who can't afford architecturally designed homes are getting more items on their dream lists as new-home developers market to high- and even moderate-income customers.

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WEEKLY SALES

ALAMEDA

2810 Bayview Dr - \$710,000
2913 Bayview Dr - \$639,000
301 Broadway - \$349,500
10 Courageous A6 - \$400,000
1017 Doris Ct - \$490,000
1144 Holly St - \$495,000
2441 Otis Dr - \$565,000
18 Oyster Shells - \$895,000
1210 Pacific Av - \$425,000
1107 Post St - \$520,000
403 Santa Clara - \$329,000
1825 Shoreline Dr - \$369,000
16 Souza Ct - \$690,000

ALBANY

907 Adams St - \$525,000
555 Pierce 629 - \$315,000

BERKELEY

1338 67th St - \$399,000
1134 Allston Wy - \$480,000
637 Arlington Av - \$819,000
3058 Benvenue - \$790,000
1812 Dwight Wy - \$416,000
2335 Edwards St - \$565,000
2724 Garber St #A - \$389,000
2839 Russell St - \$2,050,000
1120 Walnut St - \$800,000
1937 Yosemite Rd - \$530,000

EL CERRITO

843 Pomona Av - \$380,000

EL SOLBRANTE

30 Archery Ct - \$342,000
902 Bridgeway - \$612,000
10 Charlotte Ct - \$465,500

4230 Jana Vista Rd - \$410,000
4079 La Colina Rd - \$272,500

EMERYVILLE

8 Admiral Dr #A122 - \$320,000
7 Captain Dr #C208 - \$250,000
8 Commodore C353 - \$425,000
5855 Horton St #605 - \$385,000
1500 Park Av #212 - \$538,000
1500 Park Av #302 - \$390,000
1500 Park Av #305 - \$399,000
119 Temescal Cr - \$240,000

OAKLAND

1334 104th Av - \$295,000
1827 105th Av - \$195,000
2115 108th Av - \$200,000
1721 11th St - \$245,000
655 12th St 202 - \$379,000
655 12th St 207 - \$383,500
2125 26th Av - \$267,000
734 30th St - \$85,000
1224 40th Av - \$294,000
905 40th St - \$240,000
2219 41st Av - \$220,000
845 47th St - \$385,000
1043 57th St - \$380,000
597 59th St - \$490,000
887 61st St - \$512,000
2442 64th Av - \$255,000
2728 67th Av - \$278,000
1422 70th Av - \$280,000
928 70th Av - \$225,000
1277 76th Av - \$260,000
1440 76th Av - \$250,000
1225 84th Av - \$195,000

See SALES, Page B10

Tarpoff

FROM PAGE B2

many offers, the bids wouldn't have gone very high.

For example, we sold a duplex in Oakland's Rockridge that same year, a property that attracted intense buyer interest.

In those days there was no appointed day for offers, nor did listing agents require that sealed offers be dropped off to them.

The asking price was certainly lower at \$219,000 than other properties nearby. But it was hard to tell what the value of the building actually was.

For one thing, it was full of tenants who had leases but nevertheless were freed out about the sale. They didn't want to let anyone in. And no inspections had been made, not even a termite report.

We and our buyers joined a crowd the day we were told we could get inside. The upstairs tenants did allow a quick walk through, two at a time, but no one was home downstairs, and the listing agent had no keys.

In those days there was no appointed day for offers, nor did listing agents require that sealed offers be dropped off to them. When you had an offer, you presented it

as soon as the seller was available to hear it.

In this case, immediately there were many offers. We wrote a completely "as is" contract for our buyers and, among the throng, theirs was accepted at \$220,000, only \$1,000 over list price.

They weren't able to get possession for 6 or 8 months, and

when they did, the building required a new foundation and a roof, fireplace rebuild, as well as other work. But they were delighted to have the property and they still are.

This happy ending was possible because they had a strong commitment. They didn't over think the situation but moved ahead swiftly and acted bravely, much like successful buyers today.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpoff are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 653-2050 and at www.tarpoffandtalbert.com.

First time home buyers seminar tomorrow

GALLAGHER AND LINDSEY

The real estate market in the East Bay is thriving. With interest rates at their lowest levels in 40 years this is a very good time for first-time buyers to consider purchasing their home.

Realizing that there is a huge need to inform first time home buyers, a seminar will be held tomorrow from 10 a.m. until noon at the Oakland Airport Hilton hotel located at the corner of Hegenberger Road and Doolittle Drive in Oakland.

As a first time home buyer we invite you to attend this seminar. You will learn the key steps towards a successful home ownership:

- The mortgage application process
- The importance of being "pre-approved" vs. "pre-qualified"
- The cost of ownership vs. the cost of renting
- Finding your new home
- Presenting an offer on a home
- Your offer has been accepted, what now!

100 percent financing
native financing options
Calculating your
amount

Three firms will present:

- Representing Gallagher, Inc., Realtors will be Rolando and Costa DeBardeleben, Justin Jim Nations.
- Presenting financial services will be Nina Jones, Home Consultant from First Financial.
- Representing Alpenglow Company will be Carr's who is responsible for development.

During the session be sure to ask questions pertaining to your needs. To enroll please call 9920, or visit Gallagher's Web site at [gallagherandlindsey.com](http://www.gallagherandlindsey.com).



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OPEN SUNDAY
Immaculate one-level remodeled 3BD/2BA home in desirable East End. Lots of updates. Master bedroom has French doors opening to expansive deck. Fireplaces. Detached workshop storage and private fenced garden. Close to schools, parks downtown and shopping. CALL!!

ALAMEDA \$ 585,000
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

OUTSTANDING BUY!
Fabulous park-like setting with pool. 5 BD/ 2.5 BA, +/- 2440 sq. ft. Updated kitchen and bath room. Formal Dining Rm. Plus bk. area. Close to schools, parks downtown and easy freeway access. CALL!!!

DANVILLE \$ 769,000

7 WELL KEPT UNITS ON A LARGE LOT.
1 - 3 BD/ 1.5 BA, 4 - 2 BD/ 1 BA,
2 - 1 BD/ 1 BA.
New roof and recent upgraded
and painting. Parking in rear.
OAKLAND \$ 975,000
NO EXCHANGE NEEDED !!!

BERKELEY \$ 1,100,000
Owner may ever consider selling.

OAKLAND \$ 585,000
3906/3908 Greenwood Avenue

PERFECT STAGE SHOWS VERY WELL
Spacious 2 bed 1 bath. Detached garage. Come & view.

OAKLAND \$ 850,000
N. OAKLAND

Commercial w/ office, large corner lot w/ high traffic count. Currently Cafe Del Sol. Plenty of off-street parking.

ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES AVAILABLE

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3906/3908 Greenwood Avenue

PERFECT STAGE SHOWS VERY WELL
Spacious 2 bed 1 bath. Detached garage. Come & view.

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OAKLAND \$ 585,000



SECRET GARDENS OPEN and invites you to enter and enjoy one of the secret gardens of the East Bay."

Secret Gardens' tour will inspire, delight you

PARK DAY SCHOOL

Secret Gardens of the East Bay is a tour of private gardens by noted landscape designers, containing unique and artistic elements to gather ideas and inspiration from a diverse selection of statements from the personal expression to the historic narrative; from California plants to South African trees and from shady creeks to sun-dappled paths. This year's tour will be open to the public on Sunday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine.

See TOUR, Page B6

2719 Calhoun, Alameda

OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 10am-5pm



Alameda Mediterranean

First open! Charming 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath Mediterranean has a spacious upgraded kitchen, hardwood floors, unique interior balcony and is landscaped beautifully. Truly old world charm with new world convenience.

Offered at: \$599,500

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RICHARD MATUS 510.596.8896

A look around the East Bay real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

FOR THE PUBLIC

Listings

The inventory of homes for sale is very low. This continues to affect the availability and affordability of houses. Considering all this and the approach of spring (one of the best times for home sales) now would be a favorable time to investigate putting your home on the market. Your local Realtor can provide a free comparative market analysis to help you know what your home might be worth.

Glassmaker

See a "Glass Act" by Alameda glassmaker **Ken Mathias** on Thursday, March 25. The first lecture in the Alameda Museum series continues a house-by-house survey of the decorative glass on the Island. Ginger Schuler of Harbor Bay Realty underwrites this lecture. Call 510-748-0796.

Teaching+

Prudential California Realty is seeking nomination for outstanding teachers. The PCR Education Foundation honors exceptional teachers each spring for their contributions. Cash grants are awarded. Nominees must be K-12 teachers, including special education teachers. To nominate a teacher and learn about the program go to www.prurealty.com/educationfoundation/nominee.asp.

STAGING

You can earn an Accredited Staging Professional Designation with Master Trainer **Barb Schwarz**. Schwarz is the creator of Staging, a process used to help prepare a home for sale. Upcoming classes are in Berkeley and Concord. The two-day training includes classroom instruction and an on-site Home

Staging field trip. Ask about DRE credits. Call for dates and tuition information at 800-392-7161.

LUNCH

Monthly lunch and learn sessions are a tradition at the Berkeley Association of Realtors. Attend at the BAR Auditorium on Wednesday, March 31. BAR presents a speaker on a topic of current interest. To join the Lunch Bunch call the BAR office at 510-848-4288.

DERBY

Just like the Kentucky Derby, dust off your favorite hat and get ready for the WCR East Bay Chapter Annual Day At The Races. The event tickets include parking, admission, buffet and reserved seating for racing excitement. Join the fun at the Golden Gate Fields Turf Club at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 24. The best chapeau wins a prize. Sign up with Lee Jacobson of Pacific Union at 510-338-1309.

HORSES

And they're off! Bay Meadows horse racing is the focus of a California Association of Residential Lenders day of R & R. The event package includes parking, admission, buffet and reserved seating for racing excitement. Be there at 1:15 p.m., Friday, April 16. Sign up by calling Jennifer Johnson at 925-355-1200.

NEIGHBORS

Realtor magazine is seeking nominations for its fifth annual Good Neighbor Awards. The program recognizes realtors whose commitment to community service has helped make their community a better place. Five winners will be announced in the magazine and honored at the 2004 Realtors Conference & Expo. Award entries must be received by May 1. For more details call 800-874-6500.



BOBBIE REID

Credit Worthy

SALE

You have the listing. How do you convince your client there's more to getting top dollar for their home than putting a sign in the yard? Find out by attending "Preparing A Home For Sale". Veteran business coach and trainer **Kitty Cole** presents this workshop. Information includes a discussion on remodeling.

The workshop is from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday, Feb. 24, in Orinda. To make a reservation call 925-254-1900 or Kittibyz@aol.com.

PNN

The Women's Council of Realtors offers a new designation designed to focus on the most current topics driving the marketplace. It provides real-world tools and skills to today's practitioners. The Per-

See REID, Page B8

Gough

FROM PAGE B2

the aid of an expert to provide you with helpful advice on creating a tailored plan for your specific financial situation.

Educate yourself. Many women still make the mistake of shying away from investing, but educating yourself is the best way to learn more about the various vehicles available to you. Keep abreast of your own financial situation as well as what is happening in the investing world by reading financial news, surfing the Internet and attending personal finance seminars. By learning more about investments, you will not feel as overwhelmed if you find yourself unexpectedly in the financial driver's seat.

Implement your goals. Once you are familiar with investing and have a clear picture of your financial goals, you can work with your financial consultant to begin implementing your plan. As you take action, keep in mind that you may need to change it in the event of life changes such as marriage, divorce or the birth of a child. It is important to review your financial plan at least once a year in order to keep it fresh and in sync with your lifestyle.

Leila Gough is an Associate Vice President with A. G. Edwards, member SIPC in Oakland. She can be reached at 510-452-8060.

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REALTORS®



1022 Spruce Street, Berkeley

COMING SOON. A beautifully restored and maintained home with sweeping views! There are four plus bedrooms, two and one-half baths, gorgeous remodeled kitchen, formal dining room that opens to a deck, views and garden! One-car garage and lower level study or fifth bedroom. Gorgeous landscaped garden!

Offered at \$998,000

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JUST LISTED



1693 Trestle Glen Road

Offered at \$639,000

Visit www.doloresthom.com for details & photos
and to view all active East Bay listings.

Crocker Highlands

Open Sunday ~ March 21 ~ 2:00 to 5:00

Sophisticated 1926 Tudor with old world character features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, gracious formal living and dining rooms, vintage kitchen and charming breakfast room with built-ins. Spacious lower level with family room plus third bedroom (great for office) with full bath. Upslope lot with hillside deck provides a private & tranquil retreat.

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Fine Homes Specialist

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SOLD



29 LaSalle Avenue, Piedmont

Originally offered at \$1,050,000

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Prudential
California Realty

You haven't planned your estate? Well, what are you waiting for?

BY DAVID LEVIN
CORRESPONDENT

Part three of a three-part series
Adding Children to the Mix

In case avoiding taxes, the headaches of probate, ensuring you're protected in case of incapacity or ensuring that your property makes its way to your beneficiaries in the prescribed manner doesn't sound compelling enough, putting children into the equation should make estate planning a no-brainer.

It should be obvious that if you die as a single parent of minor children, or you and your spouse die simultaneously, not having a written plan can be catastrophic. Without a will naming a guardian for your child(ren), upon your death or grave disability a court would have to guess your intentions concerning the choice for an appropriate guardian. That scenario is a prospect that surely makes every parent of minor children wince.

You Can't Transfer What You No Longer Have

Often overlooked in the estate planning process is the need to preserve the assets being used to form the plan. Just as life insurance, disability insurance or the like are viewed as sound ways to preserve what you have, asset protection is a key component of estate planning. Estate planning without asset protection might compromise the entire strategy should creditors at-

tempt to enforce a judgment against you.

Certain individuals like those owning rental property, professionals and small business owners should be especially vigilant of asset protection because they are like targets of lawsuits.

You can better protect your assets in a number of ways: increasing insurance coverage, executing a homestead declaration to get a small exemption, placing money into retirement funds, and talking to those from whom you expect an inheritance to make sure your inheritance in their estate plan comes with a "spendthrift" clause.

Additional protection, however, should definitely be considered, including establishing a business entity such as a Limited Liability Company or Family Limited Partnership to own those assets, or setting up an irrevocable trust to remove the assets from your control.

You Bring Your Car In For A Tuneup... What About Your Estate Plan?

Yes, there are potholes in the world of financial and estate planning too. And they can occur often or seldom, in clumps or in isolation, but they can have a dramatic impact on your plan and therefore require periodic review. Have you experienced a birth in the family? A death? A divorce? An inheritance? These are just a few of the circumstances that require a review of what is in place to see if any

changes need to be made.

The other big factor requiring periodic review is the change in the tax laws. They are changing each year, so what may have been necessary to avoid taxes just a year or two ago may be unnecessary and therefore unduly restrictive now.

Nearly every adult needs an estate plan of some sort. Ponder this: If you had the opportunity to ask those who became disabled or died without a plan in place about the wisdom of that premise, what do you think they'd tell you? What should you be telling yourself?

David Levin practices estate planning and probate law in Oakland. He can be reached at 510-271-0966, or by email at dlevin@levinlaw.com

Bridging the gap

Q: Could you please explain how a bridge loan works? My husband's company has transferred him to another city. As part of the relocation package, they offer the option of a bridge loan for a period of 6 months. The loan is not to exceed 90 percent of the amount of equity held in the existing home.

Does that basically mean that the company will loan us what would be our down payment on a new home and we would then apply for a mortgage and repay the "down payment" amount back to the company as soon as our home sells?

Thank you very much for any insight you can bring to light on this matter and thank you for your time.

— R and L Cox

A: A bridge loan is interim financing that allows you to own two properties while waiting to sell one of them. It appears that in your

case, you have 6 months to sell your former home.

See Q&A, Page B9

The GRUBB Co.



3725 & 3727 Coolidge Ave.

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Two vacant homes on lot in the Laurel district above Macarthur and is brand new! One is a sweet home with redwood and one bath, the other was just built and has two bedrooms and two baths.

Offered at \$1,250,000



JILL CARRIGAN

OFFICE: 339.0400/328
jcarrigan@grubbc.com
GRUBBCO.COM

The GRUBB Co.



638 Gravatt Drive, Berkley

This exciting 1997 home overlooks the lush canopy of the San Francisco Bay! There are four bedrooms, a family room or office with separate entry. The living room features a two-story vaulted ceiling and an expansive terrace. Located in the covered close to BART and shops!

Offered at \$1,500,000

BBE MCRAE

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COMING SOON



RED OAK REAL

RARE PRIVATE PARADISE!

3090 Buena Vista
Berkeley

Offered at \$2,200,000

Open Sunday
March 21st, 2-5 PM

Your Only Neighbors are Deer, Birds & Trees. Own Your Own Park of 2.87 acres

Two level home offers level-in access on both floors. Private sanctuary of 3,565 square feet includes 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and 2 family rooms. Numerous windows open directly outside to mesmeric panoramic views to die for!



DIANE OHLSSON

510.280.2139

1891 Solano Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707

Northbrae



Lovely Piedmont Home!

Stunning remodeled home with level entry at end of a quiet drive! Formal dining area flows into living room with fireplace flanked by views of the deck access. Gourmet kitchen, 3BD & 2 1/2 BA, rich hardwoods and wrap around decks. Very comfortable, light filled home with Piedmont style.

Offered at \$729,000

2 Cavendish Lane, Piedmont

www.northbrae.com
Northbrae Properties • 525-4333
1600 Hopkins Street • Berkeley

Tour

FROM PAGE B5

public in the park-like setting of the school from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"The Marketplace" will feature over 30 merchants with rare plants, fine

foods and garden-related wares.

Proceeds from the tour and "The Marketplace" benefit the scholarship and academic programs of Park Day School, an independent K-6 school.

For more information, and to purchase tickets, please call Kathy Shields at 510-653-0317 ext. 103

within the past year, to accommodate new users.

The original niches are still filled with the remains of deceased loved ones, some having resided here for over 105 years. Some are reserved for several generations of individual families, while "community niches" house the remains of several unrelated individuals.

As a sign of the times, the remains of the victims of the AIDS epidemic occupy a large number of the newer niches some as individuals and others as couples, a reminder of this devastating disease.

Mark A. Wilson can be reached at 510-273-9383 or by e-mail at MarkW@aol.com.



OPEN SUN 2-4 PM
125a Hawthorne
Heart of Alameda's Gold Coast
4 Bedroom, 3.5 Bath
Huge Price Reduction

Light, Bright & Airy. Located on 1 block Cul-de-sac. Ceramic tile floors in Entry Hall, Kitchen & Family Room / Office. Large Formal Living Room with Italian Marble Fireplace. Large Formal Dining Room. Hardwood Floors newly refinished, new paint. Large Master Bedroom Suite. Gourmet Kitchen. Solid Oak Cabinets. Family Room. Could Be used for Au Pair. 2 Car detached Garage with Workshop

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3 BR/2 BA MONTCLAIR HOME WITH GORGEOUS N. & S. BAY VIEWS

> Charming Living/Dining Room with Wood Ceilings & Fireplace
> Spacious Family Room with New Berber Carpet; Opens to Level Yard
> Laundry / Workshop, Large Carport and Lots of Storage Space Above
> Level In; Over 1,800 s.f. (per Assessor)
> Close to Village & Freeway Access



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3216 FIR AVE.
Outstanding 4BD/2.5BA townhome in Islandia. Must see! Many upgrades!
OPEN SAT & SUN 2-4

1234 PEASE CT.
2 Units - Front: 1BD/1BA; Rear: Studio Charming Income Property! Or ideal for Extended Family!
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SAN LEANDRO
13733 SEAGATE DRIVE
2BD/2BA Condo at Marina Seagate, One Car Garage & One Carport, Vaulted Ceiling, **PENDING** in Living Room.

14560 OUTRIGGER DRIVE
2BD/2BA Condo at Marina Seagate, Downstairs, Two Garages, **SOLD**, \$310,000

14177 SEAGATE DRIVE
3BD/2.5BA Townhouse-style Marina Seagate, One Car Garage, **SOLD**, \$395,000

14638 OUTRIGGER DRIVE
3BD/2.5BA Townhouse-style Attached Two Car Garage, **SOLD**, \$425,000



For more information call
Marlene Leverette
(510) 883-7003
or visit erihomes.com



335 Gravatt Drive ♦ Open Sunday 2-4

Claremont Mediterranean

Inspired by many trips to Provence, this large and beautifully detailed house offers dramatic rooms for grand entertaining and intimate, inviting spaces. Rooms for every occasion. There are balconies to enjoy panoramic views of San Francisco, the Bay, Mt. Tamalpais and the bridges. There is an art studio, an in-law unit, and a level garden area. Luxurious master suite plus three additional bedrooms and baths. The "view" kitchen is a cook's dream. All this awash in golden light. \$2,450,000



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22 WHITE COURT Open Sunday, March 21 2:00-4:30



Idyllic Wooded Setting

First open! One and one-half year old, 5+ bedroom/4 bath Montclair beauty includes 2 master suites, a fabulous kitchen and pantry, wonderful use of marble and granite and a convenient home office. The sophisticated, open floor plan, 3 decks and lovely landscaping make this home ideal for entertaining. Near village on a serene, quiet cul-de-sac.

Offered at: \$1,385,000



Heidi Marchesotti
(510) 387-7865 Cell
(510) 869-4243 Voice Mail

Coming this Sunday!

209 Trinity Ave.
Kensington

\$529,000

Open Sunday, 2-4PM

Antique Retreat... for writers and world travelers...

move it all in your own private world with views of the bay, a quiet level yard, to walk to Kensington Village shops. Just open the French doors for dining or enjoy a peaceful morning with coffee and the Times. Two bedrooms, one bath, updated kitchen plus a separate office with its own entrance to your writing.

Presented by
Ann Arriola Plant
Marvin Gardens Real Estate 1577 Solano Avenue, Berkeley

(510) 527-2700x27
www.marvingardens.com

The GRUBB Co.

2001 Derby Street, Berkeley

COMING SOON. Built in 1900, this historic five bedroom home embodies the aesthetic principles of the Berkeley Unitarian transcendentalist "Hillside Club" movement: ample spaces, asymmetrical design, natural materials used in honest simplicity, and exposed beams. Beautiful clearheart redwood has been used throughout, and has been left unspoiled. A piece of Berkeley history, this home is located ideally close to the University of California Campus.

Price Upon Request



TRICIA SWIFT
OFFICE: 339.0400/333
swift@grubbc.com
GRUBBCO.COM

Visit GRUBBCO.COM for
Photo Tours
of this and other current listings.

OPEN SUNDAY 2-5



5929 Colby Street, Oakland
CHARMING ROCKRIDGE BUNGALOW

This traditional 3BD/1BA home conveniently located near BART, shopping, restaurants, and parks. This well-maintained home includes an updated kitchen with gourmet Wolf stove, formal dining room, and living room with built-in cabinets. For more information and a photo tour visit <http://home.covad.net/~sakhai/home>.

Offered at \$599,000

JEFF ROBERTS
510.466.5446
jeff.roberts@prurealty.com

Prudential California Realty



Philip Perkins Realtor

Imagine A Place That Is All Yours

13824 Campus Dr. 1.8 acre estate view lot in the Oakland Hills with city of Oakland design review approved architectural drawings for an extraordinary custom Mediterranean home by respected, noted local designer, Philip Perkins

Offered at \$495,000

Kelly Deal
Office 510.649.1111 Ext. 245
Cell 510.484.4300
kdeal@apc.com

ALAIN PINEL REALTORS

Montclair Better Homes Realty



OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, MARCH 21st
2:00PM - 4:30PM

1920's vintage home in Piedmont on gorgeous tree-lined street. Freshly painted inside and out, refinished hardwood floors and lovely details. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, spacious living room and attractive fireplace, formal dining room, and delightful front porch. Gigantic converted attic with lots of light, vaulted ceilings, and plus bedrooms; perfect for family or multipurpose room.

NAHID NASSIRI
"Your Best Move"
(510)339-4550 Direct
(510)339-8400 Office

6 Greenbank , Piedmont
Asking Price \$699,000

Visit me on the Web at www.NahidNassiri.com

1028 Keeler Ave., Berkeley
OPEN SUNDAY 2-5



This inspirational and peaceful mid-century redwood home by noted designer, Louise Rigg has a fabulous open floor plan, copper finishes, soaring ceilings, 3 decks, 2563+/- sq. ft., 4bd/3ba and stunning GG Bridge and SF Bay views.

Offered at \$999,000

2 THEATRE SQUARE, ORINDA, CA 94563
Now Search MLS Listings at www.apr.com

ALAIN PINEL REALTORS

GRUBB Co.



4807 Calderwood Court, Oakland

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This beautiful home offers gorgeous grounds designed by Gene Kunit, featuring an elegant front arbor and courtyard, mature trees and landscaping, expansive lawns perfect for croquet or badminton, and a relaxing hot tub spa overlooking canyon views. Located on a desirable cul-de-sac, highlights include a spacious master suite, large family room, grand media room and an exquisite glass-walled solarium. Four bedrooms, three full baths, three-car garage.

Offered at \$945,000

SHERRY BENNINGER
OFFICE: 339.0400/240
sherry@sherrybenninger.com
GRUBBCO.COM

GRUBB Co.

COMING SOON



285 Adams Street, Oakland

COMING SOON. Adams Point Craftsman, preserved and enhanced with exceptional care. Old world charm blended gracefully with modern space demands. Two bedrooms, one bath, private garden, garage and finished, functional attic.

Call for Price

KATHERINE COOPER
OFFICE: 339.0400/211
cooper@grubbc.com
GRUBBCO.COM

ALAIN PINEL REALTORS

Reid

FROM PAGE B5

formance Management Network (PMN) designation replaces and updates WCR's LTG designation. It is earned through courses in negotiation, networking and referrals. It also includes organizational and personal performance management and cultural differences.

TOUR

Oakland Realtors are invited to join Oakland affiliates at the monthly Tour Day Breakfast. The breakfast is

8:45, Thursday, March 25 at the OAR Building. Bring marketing flyers and an appetite. Network more - sell more. For questions and parking information call **Ramadan Aziz** of First American Title at 510-339-1230.

ORAL LEE

The Oakland Association of Realtors continues to help support the Oral Lee Brown Foundation. The foundation provides college scholarship funds for Oakland high school students. A committee was formed to create a simple and easy way for those in the real estate community to contribute. Real estate agents and brokers are invited to

designate contributions, at the close of escrow, for a special fund. Donations are now being accepted. To find out more contact OAR at 510-836-3000.

WHO?

Bells are ringing for me and my guy. Wedding bells that is. On St. Patrick's DAY THIS COLUMNIST TIED THE KNOT in the very Irish town of Murphys California. Keeping it all in the family (the real estate family), my groom is Realtor/Broker **Steven De Lucchi** of RE/MAX Active in Fremont. Although our titles change from fiancé and fiancée to husband and wife, the last

names remain the same. May the wind be always at our backs.

WHAT?

Someone new at your company? Something special your company is doing? Changing locations? Putting on a seminar? Let me know. Information deadline is two weeks before the event. Send an email to bobbiereid@mindspring.com. Fax your info to me at 510-441-7191.

**PLEASE RECYCLE
THIS NEWSPAPER.**

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STASKY & COMPANY REAL ESTATE

303 HILLSIDE AVENUE
in the heart of... PIEDMONT

Built in 1940, this level-in contemporary has glorious views of Oakland, San Francisco and the Bay & Golden Gate Bridges. Handsomely set back from the street, it is entered through an enchanting front garden. The main level has three plus bedrooms and two baths. A separate lower level has an additional bedroom and full bath plus a large family room/office with private entrance.

Offered at \$1,295,000
John Stasky (510) 525-8800

STASKY & COMPANY REAL ESTATE

LAKE MERRITT OAKLAND CONDO SOLD!!!

**322 Hanover #508**

Sold at \$427,000!!! Just blocks away from Lake Merritt and Downtown, this condo is on the top floor and has views of the South Bay. Two bedrooms, two baths. Let me show you how to get the highest possible price for your home.

Originally listed at \$389,000.

Donna Conroy 510-339-4723
Tour at www.donnaconroy.com

The GRUBB Co.

157 Mountain Avenue, Piedmont
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. A pristine and pleasant cottage in the center of town parks and public services. Move right in to this sweet home. Three bedrooms, sunny private patio and charming windows.
Offered at \$639,000

KATHERINE COOPER
OFFICE: 339.0400/211
cooper@grubbc.com
GRUBBCO.COM

A sampling of our current listings:

Oakland Large 4-bedroom, 2-bath home Perfect for extended family. Off-street parking for six cars. \$345,000	Noe Valley Wonderful, secluded home yet just steps away from 24th St. shopping & restaurants. 3-bedrooms, 2-baths on 2 levels. Huge family room with separate entrance on first floor. 1 car parking. \$729,000
Marina Rarely available 1-bedroom in a beautifully maintained and recently painted building in the heart of the Marina close to Moscone Park, Marina Green, shopping & transportation. This bright & cheery 2nd floor unit has ample closet space & a remodeled bath. \$475,000	Prudential California Realty Jim Hedges manager stunlonjim@aol.com 415-762-9399

and our newest location!

2241 Market St. San Francisco
2200 Union St. San Francisco
221 Caledonia St. Sausalito

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Hamilton

PAGE B8

The company has arranged for you to obtain funds for your down payment on the new house, the sum of those funds is a loan in the amount of 90 percent of your equity in the existing house, and

those funds are to be used to purchase a new home which will also act as a security interest against the bridge loan.

So, when you sell your old house, you can pay-off and satisfy the terms of the bridge loan (provided you sell that house for enough money to pay the brokerage fees and the old loan and still have enough to pay off the bridge loan). If you have more

money, that is yours. If you have less, well you will have until the end of six months to pay off the bridge or find other options.

When you will need to pay off the bridge will be defined in the bridge loan agreement. If the agreement states six months, then that is the term of the agreement.

If the loan states six months or when the old house sells, then it is

when the old house sells. As you can see, there are an infinite number of possibilities, so you need to consult your bridge loan agreement to be sure.

Good luck on your move!

Tom Hamilton, Ph.D., is associate professor at the Shenehon Center for Real Estate Education at the University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis. E-mail your questions to: twhamilton@stthomas.edu.

**PLEASE RECYCLE
THIS NEWSPAPER.**

NEW LISTING!

OPEN SUN MARCH 21, 2004 • 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Charming Colonial Revival

If you dream about a charming & sunny 2 bedroom 2 bath Colonial Revival in Alameda, your search is over. Located on a quiet street in move-in condition with gleaming hardwood floors, fresh paint and a huge yard. This house offers it all!

2056 Pacific Avenue,
Alameda
Offered at: \$499,000



Uli LiRosi
910-1443

ullirosi@rocketmail.com

Kane & Associates
REALTORS

Sales

FROM PAGE B4

2319 87th Av - \$335,000	2702 East 9th St - \$300,000
1122 89th Av - \$220,000	25 East Cr - \$570,000
1641 89th Av - \$280,000	5425 El Camino - \$430,000
2024 89th Av - \$320,000	625 El Dorado 401 - \$418,500
2500 89th Av - \$230,000	9999 Empire Rd - \$260,000
8451 Aster Av - \$439,000	1508 Grand View - \$2,075,000
1735 Auseon Av - \$260,000	1628 Grand View - \$1,730,000
5421 Bancroft Av - \$278,000	3674 Green Acre - \$345,000
5449 Belgrave Pl - \$915,000	2089 Harrington Av - \$275,000
2545 Best Av - \$255,000	7927 Hillmont Dr - \$410,000
21 Bowles Pl - \$810,000	1018 Hollywood Av - \$585,500
7235 Buckingham - \$870,000	53 Ironwood - \$455,000
277 Capricorn Av - \$750,000	1555 Lakeside 51 - \$372,000
425 Clara St - \$283,000	3025 Linden St - \$401,000
2712 East 21st St - \$370,000	2912 MacArthur - \$352,500
1331 East 33rd St - \$540,000	2520 Market St - \$360,000

One potato, two potato

BY BUZZ BERTOLERO

THE DIRT GARDENER

Q. I saw a gardening program where seed potatoes were being grown in a bag of potting soil. I would like to try but I can't remember the procedures and what was added to the soil. Can you outline how it is done and when is the best time to plant potatoes?

A. Potatoes are one of the easiest edible crops to grow and can be successfully grown above ground. They are available as early as December in some garden centers, area wide January through April and online year round.

There are several ways of growing potatoes above ground. In bags of potting soil is one method, you can also use an old, spare tire, or surround an area with basal blocks, railroad ties or rock.

Besides soil, you can use straw; however, it's not advisable in areas with warm temperatures. Select a sunny location.

Punch a number of evenly

spaced holes into bags of soil for drainage.

Next, flip the bag over and slice the bag open length wise and make several evenly spaced perpendicular cuts. In all of the openings, I would mix two generous tablespoons of sulfate of potash in with the soil mix.

Next, plant the potato pieces two to three per lateral and one in between in the length-wise cut. To increase the yield or if your planting russet for baking potatoes, stack two or three bag on top of each other. The potatoes are ready for harvesting about 180 days.

When the plants begin flowering, cut the water in half. Stop water altogether when the foliage turns yellow/brown. No spading is necessary just slit the sides of the bags, pull up on the potato stems to expose the potato clusters, wash off the soil, remove the vegetation, air dry the potatoes and store in a cool spot.

By the way, growing potatoes is a great activity for kids.



Publisher's Notice

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. "Familial status" includes children under the age of 18 living with parents, or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings, advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Jack London Square Bath Gallery
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NEW LISTING!

OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2-4:30PM
2103 Funston Place, Oakland



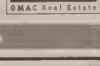
Traditional with bay views!

- Corner lot • Living room with fireplace • Formal dining room
- Custom woodworking including moldings, fireplace surround, ceiling detail • Eat-in kitchen opens to family room with fireplace • Private outdoor living including patios and hot tub • 4BR, 2 & 1/4BA



Robyn Mohr
Broker Associate
(510) 338-1310
robyn@robymohr.com
www.robymohr.com

Offered at \$679,000



NEW LISTING!

OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2-4:30PM



4060 Brown Avenue, Oakland

This wonderful light-filled home has a bay view. It has been freshly painted inside and has a sunny level yard with fruit trees and a covered patio. 2BR/1BA, hardwood floors, 1-car garage, huge attic storage space. Washer and dryer included. On a great street in the Upper Laurel district just minutes to shops, coffee, and transportation.

Offered at \$399,000

Cindy Houts
(510) 338-1364



311 Oak St - \$562,500	851 33rd St - \$330,000
525 Oakland Av - \$500,000	1072 36th St - \$200,000
2719 Octavia St - \$340,000	261 4th St - \$49,000
347 Perkins St - \$429,000	686 7th St - \$170,000
2411 Potomac St - \$673,000	766 7th St - \$235,000
3722 Quigley St - \$280,000	1200 Brickyard 108 - \$305,000
5839 Ross St - \$1,016,000	1201 Brickyard 318 - \$575,000
3051 Roxbury Av - \$530,000	3102 Erla Wy - \$370,000
7086 Sayre Dr - \$581,000	1729 Esmond Av - \$320,000
25 Schooner Hill - \$715,000	2515 Gaynor Av - \$270,500
4103 Seacor Ct - \$449,000	2942 Gilma Dr - \$330,000
3415 Simmons St - \$414,000	2367 Humphrey - \$310,000
6211 Telegraph 33 - \$260,000	2648 Longview Dr - \$420,000
84 Teralynn Ct - \$520,000	1000 Lupine Ct - \$480,000
6801 Thornhill Dr - \$253,000	2325 McBryde Av - \$360,000
500 Vernon St 104 - \$227,000	4105 McGlothen Wy - \$255,000
415 Vernon St - \$720,500	527 McLaughlin St - \$398,000
2031 Vicksburg Av - \$399,000	2500 Morning Sun - \$585,000
5626 Weaver Pl - \$752,000	3133 Shana Dr - \$333,000
7500 Weld St - \$235,500	351 South 15th St - \$280,000
4061 Whittie Av - \$512,500	126 South 35th St - \$295,000
	214 South 41st St - \$165,000
	119 South 42nd St - \$268,000
	255 South 45th St - \$315,000
	243 South 7th St - \$267,000

FIEDMONT

329 Olive Av - \$649,000
7 Requa Pl - \$1,175,000
12 York Dr - \$1,210,000

RICHMOND

645 16th St - \$260,000
565 2nd St - \$260,000

SAN LEANDRO

1798 141st Av - \$480,000
1848 164th Av - \$275,000
1128 Adanson Dr - \$420,000

PLEASE REMEMBER

Real Estate Advertising Deadlines

Space Reservations

MONDAY, 12 Noon

Copy Requiring Typesetting

MONDAY, 5 pm

Copy & Artwork

TUESDAY, 12 Noon

Open Home Guide

WEDNESDAY, 12 Noon

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COMING SOON IN PIEDMONT!

TWO HOMES, ONE LOT ~ ONE NEW, ONE NOT



Charming 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath, with family room, hardwood floors, lots of light. Rebuilt from foundation to roof. Approximately 6,000 square foot lot.



Cozy 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Kitchen, bath, and windows were all replaced in 2001. French doors open to lovely patio and large private garden.

OFFERED AT \$1,195,000

HELEN DANHAKL
(510) 547-5750



COMING SOON IN OAKLAND HILLS!

OPEN MARCH 28TH & APRIL 4TH, 2-4:30PM



4046 39th Avenue

Charming 1915 cottage on approx 14,850 sq. ft. with orchard. Expansive Bay/S.F. views. It's retained its original charm. Workshop in basement. Needs TLC but a great opportunity in a wonderful location.

Asking price \$375,000



4629 Davenport Avenue

Classic 2016+/- sq. ft. Art Moderne home designed by architect Frederick L.R. Confer. Unique home has 4BR/2BA situated on approx .3 acres with views of S.F., Oakland and the Bay. Many upgrades to this private sun-filled home, with mature landscaping.

Asking price \$619,000

Diane Earl McCann
REDWOOD HEIGHTS & LAUREL SPECIALIST
(510) 338-1352
Visit my website: www.dianemccan.com



NEW LISTING IN PIEDMONT!

OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 1:30-5:30PM

6 Muir Avenue, Piedmont

This sun drenched Normandy is ideally located near Piedmont's fine schools. The over 1/3 LEVEL acre is professionally landscaped, and surrounds a lovely pool and 3-car garage.

- 4BR/3BA & powder room
- Beamed ceiling living room
- Formal dining room • New gourmet kitchen
- Updated baths • Main floor office
- Lovely stone patios



Offered at \$3,250,000

 HELEN DANHAKL (510) 547-5750

Woodside Glen
COMING SOON!

Mediterranean
8 WOODSIDE GLEN CT.
4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths



French Country
10 WOODSIDE GLEN CT.
4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths



Tudor
12 WOODSIDE GLEN CT.
4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths



Craftsman
16 WOODSIDE GLEN CT.
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Last 4 homes in Phase I of the Woodside Glen Development
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Teri Carlisle & Francis Heath
www.woodsideglen.com
510.338.1388



PACIFIC UNION

GMAC Real Estate

www.pacunion.com

By Appointment

CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$1,295,000
Near Piedmont border. Exquisite light-filled 4BR/3BA

home. Lush gardens. Impeccably remodeled, spectacular architectural details. Leslie Avant x1341

ROCKRIDGE \$985,000
Beautifully restored & updated 1914 traditional. Lovely architectural details. 4+BR/2.5BA, 2 bonus rooms, cook's kitchen, rebuilt garage, level yard. Ann Nichols x1319

RIDGEMONT \$759,000
Sweeping SF/GG, bay views! All-level 3BR/2.5BA. Formal dining. Family rm w/vaulted ceiling, fireplace & wet bar. Spacious master suite. Many upgrades. Robyn Mohr x1310

UPPER OAKMORE \$699,000
Beautifully remodeled 3BR/2BA home. Sophisticated style, high quality materials. SF views, gourmet kitchen, attached garage, Montclair schools, patio & yard. Donna Costella x1355

MONTCLAIR LOT \$250,000
Over 1/4 acre lot w/wide frontage & a building pad on a quiet street. Possible bay view. Survey & soils report available. Wendy Gardner Ferrari x1303

Coming Soon



PIEDMONT \$1,195,000
Two homes on one lot. Charming rebuilt 2BR/2.5BA w/family room, hdwd flrs, lots of light. Cozy 2BR/1BA cottage. French doors open to lovely patio & large private garden. Helen Danhakl x1356



OAKLAND HILLS \$619,000
Classic Art Moderne home designed by Frederick Confer. Unique 4BR/2BA w/SF, Oakland, bay views. Custom kitchen, 2 fireplaces, family room & skylights. Large lot w/ mature landscaping. Diane Earl McCann x1352

LAUREL \$375,000
Charming 1915' cottage on approx 14850sf lot. Cozy 2BR/1BA w/workshop in basement. Orchard in deep rear yard w/ SF/bay views. Diane Earl McCann x1352

By Appointment

PIEDMONT \$3,250,000
CUR AVE. (Open 1:30-5:30)
New listing! Sun drenched 4BR/3BA

formal dining room, new

kitchen, updated baths. On over

level landscaped acre w/lovely pool

& garage. Helen Danhakl x1356

PER ROCKRIDGE \$1,550,000

HILLTOP CR. (Open 2-4:30)

Stunning all-level 4BR/3+BA home

.3 acre, SF/GG views, spacious for-

rooms, soaring ceilings, light &

landscaped gardens. Handicap-

ped. Dee Knowland x1318

PER ROCKRIDGE \$1,395,000

GOLDEN GATE AVE. (Open 2-5)

Listing! Light, airy & sophisticated

spacious spaces & fine craftsmanship.

SRB. Gourmet kitchen/family room,

par/guest suite. Home office w/

private entrance. James Duffy x1326

PER ROCKRIDGE \$1,295,000

CONTRA COSTA (Open 2-4:30)

Sophisticated 5+BR/3.5BA home.

Spacious design kitchen, stunning SF bay

area. Rear garden & charming patio. Great

outdoor living. Rich Gould x1347

OAKLAND HILLS \$1,295,000

BURDECK DR. (Open 2-5)

approx. one-half acre w/smashing

constructed bay views. 3300+ sf. Ultra

modern setting. Fritz Hochfelder x1348

ROCKER HIGHLANDS \$1,050,000

NORTHVALE RD. (Open 2-4:30)

50% price reduction! Grand 5BR/4BA

total w/plus spaces. Landscaped large

yard, fresh paint in & out. Near shopping & transportation. Bonnie Hirsch x1337

CRESTMONT \$699,000

WESTFIELD WAY (Open 2-4:30)

New listing! Fabulous remodel w/open

floor plan & sweeping bay views. 4BR/3BA.

Lower level rec room opens to private,

protected pool area. Close to shopping & commutes. Charlotte Boyle x1370

PIEDMONT \$995,000

RICARDO AVE. (Open 2-4:30)

Great Warm, friendly Dutch Colo-

ur street, just a short distance from

beautiful Dracena Park. 3BR/2.5BA,

family room level-out to spacious

patios & hot tub. Anna Nichols x1319

PIEDMONT \$995,000

RICARDO AVE. (Open 2-4:30)

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PIEDMONT \$995,000

RICARDO AVE. (Open 2-4:30)

Great Warm, friendly Dutch Colo-

ur street, just a short distance from

beautiful Dracena Park. 3BR/2.5BA,

family room level-out to spacious

patios & hot tub. Anna Nichols x1319

PIEDMONT \$995,000

RICARDO AVE. (Open 2-4:30)

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patios & hot tub. Anna Nichols x1319

Sales

FROM PAGE B10

14737 Harold Av - \$305,000
 1140 Jefferson St - \$382,000
 441 Linnell Av - \$428,000
 16956 Los Reyes - \$370,000
 552 Mitchell Av - \$536,000
 2231 Oceanside Wy - \$596,000
 291 Stoakes Av - \$308,000
 1995 Sundberg Av - \$355,000
 14490 Wiley St - \$425,000
 16600 Winding Bl - \$330,000

BAN LORENZO

458 Crespi Pl - \$441,500
 475 Crespi Pl - \$418,500
 481 Crespi Pl - \$393,500
 533 Drew St - \$469,000
 16193 Vila Andeta - \$385,000
 15809 Vila Arroyo - \$415,000
 17323 Vila Frances - \$410,000
 1624 Vila Sarita - \$460,000

By the numbers**ALBANY**

TOTAL SALES: 13
 LOWEST PRICE: \$329,000

HIGHEST PRICE: \$895,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$495,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$528,962

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 2
 LOWEST PRICE: \$315,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$525,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$420,000

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 10
 LOWEST PRICE: \$389,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$2,050,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$565,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$723,800

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 1
 PRICE: \$380,000

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 5

LOWEST PRICE: \$272,500
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$612,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$410,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$420,400

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 8

LOWEST PRICE: \$612,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,000,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$625,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$680,000

See Sales

NEW LISTING IN PIEDMONT! 65 Wyngaard Ave

OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 21ST 2-4:30PM



Price Upon
Request

Architecturally renowned 1940 French Provincial Moderne. Classic, gracious, sunny and beautiful. Elegant features include grand curved staircase, oversized rooms, original oval windows and French doors, authentic shutters, molding and hardwood floors. Outdoor spaces include flagstone patios and level lawn area with a view of San Francisco. Four bedrooms, three and a half baths, flexible formal living room/dining room/family room and a retro kitchen. This one is very special.

Nancy Rothman
510.339.2169 ext. 209
nrothman@pacunion.com

www.pacunion.com

PACIFIC UNION
GMAC Real Estate

**NEW LISTING IN OAKLAND! 6031 Acacia Ave**

OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 21ST 2-4:30PM



Price Upon
Request

Classic Mediterranean built in 1995 with all the character & charm of yesteryear and a floor plan suited to today's life-style. Formal living room & dining room, kitchen/family room plus a rumpus room, five bedrooms, four and a half baths and level out patios & garden. This custom-built home features wrought iron, tile & limestone details adding style & sophistication of this desirable Claremont Pines location.

Nancy Rothman
510.339.2169 ext. 209
nrothman@pacunion.com

www.pacunion.com

PACIFIC UNION
GMAC Real Estate

The GRUBB Co.

7 Bay Forest Place
Coming Soon. Offered at \$979,000



6608 Pinehaven Road
By Appointment. Offered at \$549,000



Debbi DiMaggio
Making Transitions Easier

OFFICE: 339.0400/227
dimaggio@grubbc.com
GRUBBCO.COM



2465 Alida Street
Offered at \$439,000

Open Sunday 2-4:30



6317 Broadway Terrace
Sale Pending



3877 Howe Street

Sale Pending

NEW CLAREMONT LISTING!

2848 Derby Street

This grande dame was designed by architect A. W. Pattiani in 1889. The home, which can be used as a duplex, has been in the present family for 80 years! Ready for renovation.

Four bedrooms, two baths.

\$699,000

OPEN SUNDAYS March 21 and 28, 2-5 p.m.

Julie Lehman
Jay Lean

Prudential
California Realty
2 Tunnel Road, Berkeley

Office: 510-845-0211
Voice mail: 510-986-9556

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 1

PRICE: \$380,000

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 5

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 8

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 8

EL CERRITO

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House
unting this
weekend?
Don't miss
our Open
ome Guide
on B17.

The GRUBB Co.
PLATINUM



2901 Tunnel Road, Oakland

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Impeccable detailing throughout featuring three plus bedrooms and two and one-half baths. Beautiful chef's kitchen with adjacent family room, home office, which could be used as a fourth bedroom, master retreat with bay views, wonderful outdoor spaces including two courtyards, patios and a sport court.

Offered at \$1,175,000



KURT BUCHHOLZ
OFFICE: 339.0400/221
buchholz@grubbc.com
GRUBBCO.COM

Visit GRUBBCO.COM for
Photo Tours
of this and other current listings.

NEW LISTING

Oakland Hills Home Sellers Net Thousands With These Important Strategies

Montclair - Real Estate and Financial Consultant, Todd Ensley of Montclair Better Homes, in conjunction with Dianne Crosby of La Salle Mortgage, are offering this free, unique seminar to home sellers. Meet local industry professionals who know the Oakland Hills market. Here are just a few of the strategies we'll discuss for increasing the value of your property and securing financing for your next home purchase:

- Inspection disclosures; transparency equals trust
- Appearance and emotional impact is underestimated
- Identify financially qualified buyers
- Options for financing your next home, *prior to sale*
- In addition to identifying current trends, you'll be able to formulate an intelligent and strategic plan that fits your needs.
- Take this opportunity to meet with local real estate professionals who have valuable information you can use.

Space is limited. Reserve your space today: **510-444-1022**

Wednesday, March 24th, 6:30 to 7:30 pm
Montclair Better Homes Office
1986 Mountain Blvd. in Montclair

Financing A Home In The Oakland Hills Has Never Been Easier — Mortgages Up to \$1,500,000 With As Little As 5% Down

Montclair - With interest rates at an all time low, it's important that buyers have a full understanding of their options when they decide to purchase a home. Individuals with high net worth and/or a solid credit history have many financing options available to them when purchasing a home over \$600,000.

Individuals searching in the high end housing markets have many choices. Proactive help allows buyers to leverage their financial options," said Todd Ensley of Montclair Better Homes. Join Oakland Hills experts Todd Ensley and Dianne Crosby of La Salle Financial Services for this free seminar that will provide you with the information you need to optimize your returns in your next home purchase.

Space is limited. Reserve your space today: **510-444-1022**

Tuesday, March 23rd, 6:30 to 7:30 pm
Montclair Better Homes Office
1986 Mountain Blvd. in Montclair

Let Someone Else's Money Work For You!



Duplex

Offered at \$525,000

1112 Harrison Street, Berkeley

Sunday Open House
March 21st, 1-4pm

For more information
contact listing agent:

Kimberly Welch
Marvin Gardens Real Estate
(510) 292-3046

marvengardens
real estate

Marvin Gardens believes all material to be correct but assumes no liability for its accuracy

With a rental income of \$1800,
your monthly payment would be:

\$437

Only 5% down!
5 Year Adjustable Rate Mortgage

Loan details: 5% Down Payment of \$6,750. First loan is an ARM for \$420,000. Interest rates 5.075% (APR=5.744%). The second loan is a Line of Credit for \$76,500. Interest rate=6.00% (APR=6.03%). Total mortgage payment is \$2,237. Rates as of 3/11/2004. This is not a loan commitment nor is it a guarantee of any kind. This scenario is based solely on estimated figures and information available at the time of preparation. Rates subject to change daily.

Get in this home today!

Let Sam show you the way!

Sam Krueger
Residential Loan Consultant
(510) 526-6554

Call for a free consultation!

FIRST RESIDENTIAL FUNDING
1700 Solano Avenue Suite B, Berkeley, CA 94707
Licensed by California Department of Real Estate
#01269698

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SHOULDN'T YOUR FINANCIAL STRATEGY DO THE SAME?

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MERRILL LYNCH

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THE GILBERT-SIMOS GROUP
GREG B. GILBERT, CFP
SENIOR FINANCIAL ADVISOR
JAMES S. SIMOS
FINANCIAL ADVISOR

TOTAL MERRILL

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619 Mariposa Avenue, Oakland

This spacious and airy 1908 Early Tudor Revival, on a wooded double lot one block from the Rose Garden, has 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, full basement with wine racks, sun room, remodeled kitchen with Wolf range, huge unfinished third floor with exposed beams. Original antique light fixtures, mahogany fireplace. Three blocks to I-580.

\$1,190,000

Open House
Sunday, March 21st,
2:00-4:30 pm
Possible owner financing.
(510) 708-0156



Loan amounts \$100,000 - \$400,000
APR 4.656 based on \$400,000

4.50%

30 YEAR FIXED!

4.875% Jumbo

Loan amounts to \$600,000
APR 5.025% based on \$600,000

- Pricing based on 65% Loan to value, 660+ FICO, owner-occupied SFR and 3 year pre-payment penalty. Some exceptions allowed.

- Rates & Terms subject to changes without notice

- Equal Housing Lender

- Licensed CA DRE #01183856

Hurry... Interest rates can't stay this low for much longer!

Danny Hirsch
800-881-3516

danny@lamorindafunding.com

KORMAN 

real estate services

NEW!

North Berkeley Townhouses with Views
1390-1392-1394 Henry Street



OPEN SUNDAY
March 21st
2-5 P.M.

Contact Miriam Ng
(510) 845-8326

Starting at:
\$755,000

New shingled townhouses in the heart of North Berkeley with the following fine features:

- 3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths
- Radiant heat
- Solar electric
- Custom Cherry cabinets
- Dynasty range
- Fisher/Paykel dishwasher
- Ground level bedroom/office/guest room
- Asko washer and dryer
- Fire sprinklers
- Security system
- Garage

A MUST SEE

For more details, go to www.kormanandng.com

2025 ROSE STREET, BERKELEY, CA 94709

Coming Soon!

An urban retreat in the heart of Berkeley's coveted Claremont District. A fabulous and spacious Mediterranean in a magical, park-like setting.

"We are passionate about East Bay real estate."



JUDITH GLASS
510.326.7929
Judith@GlassSabine.com

Glass Sabine

Visit our website at www.GlassSabine.com

www.ProRealty.com



SHEILA SABINE
510.326.5055
Sheila@GlassSabine.com

Sales

FROM PAGE B12

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 80
LOWEST PRICE: \$195,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$2,075,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$379,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$452,288

PLEASE RECYCLE.**MEDONT**

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$649,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,210,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$1,175,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$1,011,333

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 27
LOWEST PRICE: \$165,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$585,000

MEDON

LOWEST PRICE: \$310,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$327,981

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 23
LOWEST PRICE: \$260,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$620,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$410,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$409,783

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 8

LOWEST PRICE: \$385,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$469,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$418,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$424,063

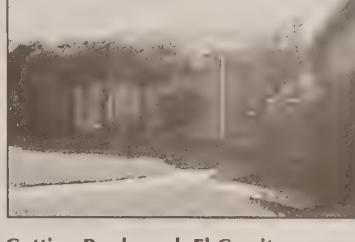
This list is provided by California Resource, a real estate information company that obtains the information from the County Recorder's Office. Neither California Resource nor this newspaper guarantees the completeness or accuracy of the information. All questions should be directed to CalResource@aol.com.

BAY AREA PROPERTIES

3088 Claremont Ave., Berkeley

Dino Tomassi
510-597-0292Photos at:
baproPERTIES.com

Open Sunday 2 to 5

**6860 Cutting Boulevard, El Cerrito**

Bright, spacious 2 Bedroom with Bay Views Throughout! Huge living/dining room with fireplace and backyard access. Eat-in kitchen and attached garage, too! Near Canyon Trail Park and BART. Offered at \$419,000.

Also...Lots of Lots Available!

See our website for further details!

www.baproPERTIES.com**The GRUBB Co.****5785 Country Club Drive, Oakland**

COMING SOON. Located in Claremont, this gorgeous four bedroom, three and one-half bath contemporary offers stunning Bay views, lovely sunny gardens and gracious formal rooms.

Offered at \$975,000

DANA COHEN

OFFICE: 339.0400/348
dcohen@grubbc.com**MORTGAGE RATES****15 YEAR FIXED**

RATE APR

4.625%* 4.656%**30 YEAR FIXED**

RATE APR

5.375% 5.394%****30 YEAR FIXED**

RATE

5.75% 5.75%****510 748-8904****"Where People Come First"****2130 Otis Drive • Alameda**email: BrydonB@BankofAlameda.com

Member FDIC

*4.656% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$333,700 loan amount. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 15 years and is subject to change.

**5.394% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$333,700 loan amount. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and is subject to change.

80% estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount is approximately \$1,889 minimum loan amount \$100,000. Homeowner's insurance is required. Closing costs are estimated at 3.75% of loan amount. Total interest paid over the life of the loan is \$35,000. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and subject to change.

80% estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount is approximately \$1,889 minimum loan amount \$100,000. Homeowner's insurance is required. Total interest paid over the life of the loan is \$35,000. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and subject to change.

Above programs are based on primary, single family residences, townhouses, and condominiums only. No prepayment penalty required. Cash restrictions may apply. All credit applications are subject to credit qualifications and underwriting requirements. Rates as of March 15th 2004 are subject to change.

The GRUBB Co.**55 Fairview Avenue, Piedmont**

Offered at \$929,000

Open Sunday 2-4:30



JANICE PETTIT TUNNEY, CRS

Broker Associate

Office: 339.0400/217

tunney@grubbc.com

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New Listings**55 Fairview Avenue, Piedmont**

Offered at \$929,000

Open Sunday 2-4:30

55 Fairview Avenue, Piedmont

Offered at \$929,000

Open Sunday 2-4:30

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55 Fairview Avenue, Piedmont

Offered at \$929,000

Open Sunday 2-4:30

55 Fairview Avenue, Piedmont</

House hunting this weekend? Turn to Hills Newspapers Real Estate & Home section first.

MAISON NOUVEAU

Real Estate Services

Coming Soon

Open Sunday 2-4pm!

360 Vernon St. #201
\$220,000



This Condominium sits on a quiet tree lined street with convenient highway access, and is close to Belmont Ave and Lake Merritt. It features new kitchen appliances, granite counters, sunny private rooms, wood floors, private secure parking, and an elevator and laundry in the building.

Available mid-April

454 Hudson St.

2br/1ba Craftsman in the heart of Rockridge, garage converted into office/studio, sunny private yard with lemon trees, 2 fireplaces, glowing wood floors. Hot tub, storm windows, many original details, built-ins, just blocks from Market Hall and BART

230 Mather St.

2+br/2ba just 2 blocks from the intersection of Pleasant Valley and Piedmont Ave., fireplace, seismically retrofitted, updated kitchen, new hot tub, deep lush private yard, many original details, electronic fence around deck, tons of storage - perfect for wine cellar

2%

2701 College Ave., 510 849 0900

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www.mtginfo.com/cct

Market Indicator*
This wk
5/250

COMPANY	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	RATES AS OF 3/16/04	COMMENTS
First Lending #4-8280	30-yr Fixed 4.875 . . . 2.000 5.118 . . . 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 . . . 0.000 5.531 . . . 30	15-yr Fixed 4.250 . . . 2.000 4.484 . . . 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 3.750 . . . 1.000 3.859 . . . 30	OPEN WKENDS, FAST & EZ APPVAL, CASH OUT NO POINT NO FEES LOANS AVAILABLE, CALL 877-414-8280 or WWW.CALFIRSTLENDING.COM	
State Funding #38-3083	30-yr Fixed 5.250 . . . 0.000 5.280 . . . 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 . . . 0.000 5.540 . . . 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250 . . . 0.000 4.290 . . . 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.750 . . . 0.000 3.790 . . . 30	Cal-State Funding CAN fund your loan Rates change daily, call for latest rate We are here to satisfy your needs.	
Mortgage Services #38-5339	30-yr Fixed 5.000 . . . 1.250 5.173 . . . 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 . . . 1.000 5.492 . . . 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.000 . . . 1.375 3.132 . . . 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 3.875 . . . 1.000 3.892 . . . 30	Open Sat & Sun, Qualify & stated or no income option available. Credit Problems O.K.	
Mythimne Home Loans #34-7776	30-yr Fixed 5.500 . . . 0.000 5.699 . . . 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 . . . 0.000 5.782 . . . 30	7-yr arm Jumbo 4.825 . . . 0.000 4.830 . . . 30	12 Mo Fxd Pay I/O 1.250 . . . 0.000 3.261 . . . 30	10 GUARANTEE CLOSING ON PURCHASES 100% FINANCING, LESS PAPERWORK FREE PRE-APPROVAL FOR PURCHASES	
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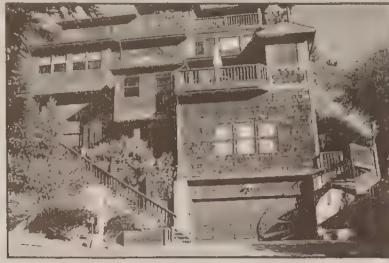
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3416 Birthing	3BD/2.5BA
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3216 Fir	4BD/2.5BA
Sun & Sun 2-4	510-814-4888 Steve Sorenson
1 Invincible Ct	2BD/2BA
Sun 2-4 & Sun 2-4	510-331-0963/523-0746 Wendy Sanda/Mindy Hart
2056 Pacific Ave	2BD/2BA
Sun 2-4	510-911-1440 Uli Lirosi
2016 Central	3BD/2BA
Sun 2-4	510-814-4829 Margaret Lomba
1003 Camilla	3BD/2.5BA
Sun 2-4	510-769-1606 John Bickley
1107 Park St	3BD/2BA
Sun 2-4	510-814-4884/814-4893 Izabella & Kathy
1406 8th St.	2BD/1.5BA
Sun 2-4	510-251-6000 Leslie Wright
1098 Versailles	2BD/2BA
Sun 2-4	510-814-4875 Diedre Dixon
3517 McSherry Way	3BD/2.5BA
Sun 2-4	510-814-4848/814-4892 Ring Liu/Eunice Edwards
2719 Calhoun	3BD/1.5BA
Sun 2-4	510-339-9290 Ma Ca Realty
311 Laguna Vista	2+BD/2BA
Sun 2-4	510-917-1617 Bill Bissett
2808 Windsor Dr.	3+BD/1.5BA
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1322 Burbank St.	2BD/2BA
Sun 2-4	510-814-4859/814-4861/814-4858 Karen/Susan/Brooke
2047 Eagle Ave	4BD/4BA
Sun 2-4	510-337-8670 Ma Ca Realty
24m Thuries	4BD/2.5BA
Sun 2-4	510-814-4885/814-4848 Donn Gutierrez/Ringo Liu
940 Versailles Ave	2 units
Sun 2-4	510-521-1058/521-1647 Colleen McFerrin/Quinn Stone
330 Tideway	3BD/2.5BA
Sun 2-4	510-748-1101 Ruth Masonek
1 Ratto Road	4BD/3BA
Sun 2-4	510-589-1908 Hanna Fry
15 Sable Pt.	4BD/3BA
Sun 2-4	510-814-4880 Maureen Shandoll
1253 Hawthorne	4BD/3.5BA
Sun 2-4	510-814-4831 Bev Williams
816 Curtis St	2+BD/1BA
Sun 2-4	510-280-2126 Leif Jensen
718 Gilman Ave.	1BD/1BA
Sun 2-4	510-339-0400 Chris Cohn
2801 Park St.	2BD/1BA
Sun 2-4	510-550-4500 Jacquelyn Carter
386 Vermont Ave.	2+BD/1BA
Sun 2-4	510-652-2133 Ruth Frassetto
1512 Virginia Duplex	---
Sun 2-4	510-339-9290 Michael Stephens
2137 Sacramento	2+BD/1BA
Sun 2-4	510-280-2126 Leif Jensen
735 Peralta Ave	2+BD/1BA
Sun 2-4	510-524-9888/19 Arlene Baxter
1112 Harrison Duplex	---
Sun 2-4	510-292-3046 Kim Welch
1805 Virginia St	2BD/1BA
Sun 2-4	510-280-2178 Grace Bishop
1412 66th St	---
Sun 2-4	510-812-6777 Eric N. Silverman
2 houses on 1 lot	---
Sun 2-4	510-812-6777 Eric N. Silverman

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\$599,000	1085 Keeler Ave	3BD/3BA
Open Sun 2-4	510-527-2700 X31	Wendy Bakkena
\$599,000	1901 Grant St	3BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4:30	510-868-1400	Prudential Ca Realty
Kathy Close		
\$625,000	441 Michigan Ave	3BD/1.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30	510-24-9888x3	Berkeley Hills Realty
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\$699,000	2848 Derby	4BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-5	510-845-0211	Prudential Ca Realty
Julie Lehman		
\$700,000	1166 Cragmont	3+BD/3BA
Open Sun 2-4:30	510-899-6339	Better Homes Realty
Michelle McKewen		
\$799,000	1275 Campus Dr	4+BD/3BA
Open Sun 2-5	510-428-0900	Prudential Ca Realty
Tom Kilgallen		
\$835,000	70 Hazel Rd.	2BD/2BA
Sun. 2-4:30	510-839-8900	C21 Heritage Real Estate
Gayle Tantau		
\$849,000	989 Creston Rd.	4+BD/2BA
Sun. 2-4	925-974-7635	Security Pacific
Magnay		
\$859,000	3025 Shattuck Ave	6BD/3BA
Open Sat 2-4	510-848-0110	Help-U-Sell Berkeley Properties
Broker		
\$999,000	1028 Keeler Ave.	4BD/3BA
Sun 2-5	925-438-2045	Alain Pinel Realtors
Kelly Deal		
\$1,095,000	2151 Ashby	---
Open Sun 2-4	510-849-0211	Nancy Platoff
Carolyn Dopp		
\$1,250,000	1515 Arch St.	4BD/3BA
Sun. 2-4:30	510-652-2133	The Grubb Co.
Bebe McRae		
\$1,299,995	13506 Campus	4BD/2.5BA
Sun. 2-4:30	510-220-7649	C21 Heritage Real Estate
Mel Copland		
\$1,575,000	40 Alta Rd.	4BD/3BA
Sun. 2-4:30	510-677-6674	Exit Realty
Traci Lewis		
\$2,000,000	3090 Buena Vista	4BD/3BA
Open Sun 2-5	510-280-2139	Red Oak Realty
Diane Ohlsson		
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\$499,900 8191 Aldea St 4BD/2BA		
Prudential Ca Realty		
Natalie Lynch		
Ei Cerrito		
\$315,000 1751 Liberty St #205 2BD/2BA		
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\$419,000 7431 Stockton Ave 2BD/1BA		
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Jennifer Fickschener		
\$459,000 2515 Alva 2+BD/1.5BA		
Open Sun 2-4		
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Ken Katz		
\$495,000 5931 Clement Ave 3BD/2.5BA		
Open Sun 2-4		
510-652-6606 Coldwell Banker Bartels		
Reem Singh		
\$499,500 6703 Glen Mawr Ave 3BD/1BA		
Open Sun 2-4:30		
510-232-7184 X12 Coldwell Banker Bartels		
Sil Addiego		
Emeryville		
\$439,000 1012 47th St 3BD/2BA		
Open Sun 2-4:30		
510-701-7181 Prudential Ca Realty		
Carolyn Dopp		
\$419,000 7431 Wellington St 2+BD/1BA		
Sun. 2-4:30		
510-280-2171 Red Oak Realty		
Jennifer Fickschener		
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510-527-2700 X40 Marvin Gardens		
Ken Katz		
\$499,000 3163 Coolidge		
Open Sun 2-5		
510-501-3190 Prudential Ca Realty		
Bill Grimason		
\$434,500 3650 Delmont Ave. 2BD/1BA		
Open Sun 2-5		
510-550-4500 ReMax In Motion		
Jacquelyn Carter		
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\$559,000 295 Colgate 3BD/1.5BA		
Open Sun 1-30		
510-280-2114 Red Oak Realty		
Judy Boe		
\$599,000 124 Amethyst Ct. 5BD/3BA		
Sun 1-5		
510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker		
Elena Stone		
Lafayette		
\$1,395,000 80 Camelia Ln. 5BD/4BA		
Sun 1-4		
925-939-2858 Bowden Realty		
Jacquelyn Carter		
Kensington		
\$569,000 112 Kensington Cr. 3BD/1.5BA		
Open Sun 2-5		
510-499-6777 Michael Price		
Assist-2-Sell		
\$598,000 124 Amethyst Ct. 5BD/3BA		
Sun 1-5		
510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker		
Elena Stone		
Oakland		
\$219,000 10 Moss Ave. 1BD/1BA		
Sun 1-4:30		
510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker		
Victor Ratto		
\$220,000 360 Vernon #201 1BD/1BA		
Open Sun 2-4		
510-849-9900 Heather Sittig		
Maison Nouveau		
\$224,000 425 Orange St #208 1BD/1BA		
Open Sun 2-4		
510-843-0310 Prudential Ca Realty		
Lilia A. Marquez		
\$289,000 26 Murdock Ct. 2BD/1BA		
Sun 2-4:30		
510-531-7000 x246 Wells & Bennett Realtors		
Stan Hammond		
\$295,000 780 17th St 2BD/1BA		
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510-559-2929 Te' Everson		
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\$299,000 3531 Davis St 1+BD/1BA		
Open Sun 2-4:30		
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\$309,000 2751 79th Ave. 2BD/1BA		
Open Sun 2-4:30		
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Andreas Furtner		
\$317,500 5467 Wadean Pl 2BD/1BA		
Open Sun 2-4:30		
510-292-3041 Crystal Elliott		
Marvin Gardens		
\$319,000 1085 Keeler Ave. 3BD/2BA		
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\$321,000 4031 Waterhouse Rd. 2BD/1BA		
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\$321,000 637-639 Aileen St. 2BD/1.5BA		
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eat-in kitchen, formal dining, family & sports
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625 HOLLYHOCK DR., SAN LEANDRO.
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2630 VISTA GRAND COURT, SAN
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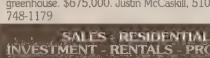


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BEDROOMS ON 1 LOT. Berkeley Bungalow with 2+
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SPORTS

• Friday, March 19, 2004 •

Section C

Who's on first? Probably the Bruins in the BSAL

BSAL BASEBALL PREVIEW

the BSAL this year. St. Mary's looks to have a formidable group of returning players, too.

But that's not all.

Albany loses some key players, but has others coming back who look to pick up the slack. John Swett appears strong again, and Salesian advanced to the North Coast Section Class A playoffs, too. But how will the Chieftains fare after the graduation of pitching ace Randy Renn?

Also, Piedmont had a down year in 2003. This year, the High-

landers' fortunes are anybody's guess. Some predict good things for the Highlanders, others mediocrity.

St. Mary's coach Andy Shimabukuro maybe sums up the league best: "Throw 'em in a hat and pick 'em out."

A team-by-team look at 2004 BSAL baseball:

Albany

- COACH: Jim Giblin, third year
- 2003 RECORD: 18-6, 12-4 BSAL
- TOP RETURNEES: P-1B Lou

Worth, Sr.; CF Eddie Izumizaki, Sr.; OF-P Phil Lightner, Sr.; OF Kofi Yidom, Sr.; C Greg Johnson, Jr.

- TOP NEWCOMERS: SS-P Jason Bennett, So; 2B Zach Babine, Fr; P Brian Nelson, Jr.; OF Fred Atkins, So

- KEY LOSSES: C Ian Gordon, SS Matt Ball, 2B Robert Diaz, P Thomas Coble

- OUTLOOK: The losses of players like 2002 BSAL MVP Gordon (now at St. Mary's College) and 2003 league co-MVP Ball (now at University of Hawaii) are huge. But the Cougars have talented and experienced players in other positions this season. Giblin says his team is "in-between" at this point. But Albany's in-between likely is better than that of other teams. Most

opposing coaches expect a top-four finish.

John Swett

- COACH: Mike Leite, second season
- 2003 RECORD: 18-6, 11-5

- TOP RETURNEES: P-SS Jason Donahue, Jr.; 1B Kyle Blotzer, Sr.; OF P.T.J. Ratliff, Sr.; OF Andrew Johnson, Sr.

- TOP NEWCOMERS: 2B-OF Jimmy Porter, Jr.; C Sammy Jimenez, Jr.; P-U Brandon Gillette, So

- KEY LOSSES: SS Cole Adams, 2B Adam Carone, C-P Ricky Flores

- OUTLOOK: The Indians don't have the pitching depth they've enjoyed in seasons past, but the defense has

been strong through the nonleague season. Leite believes his team will be in the hunt for a league title. A top-four finish is not out of the question.

Kennedy

- COACH: Nick Salibrio, second season
- 2003 RECORD: 4-13, 3-13

- TOP RETURNEES: P-C Aaron Miles, Sr.

- TOP NEWCOMERS: OF Melanah Martin, Jr.; 2B Alonso Cortez, So

- KEY LOSSES: P Ryan Eleck, P-IF C Tony Brandi, 3B Kevin Shields

- OUTLOOK: Salibrio says the Eagles have the potential for a .500 season if

See BASEBALL, Page 2

State title within their grasp



DEBORAH COLEMAN/FOR THE VOICE-JOURNAL
COURTNEY PARIS, left, of Piedmont defends St. Mary's Courtney Dunn. Paris scored 12 points and hauled down 15 rebounds for the Highlanders.

Highlanders knock off the Panthers for the fifth time this season to advance to the championship game

By Bill Kruissink

STAFF WRITER

STOCKTON — It's said that basketball is a game of peaks and valleys. If so, the Piedmont High School girls team found its peak at the right time.

Playing in the California Interscholastic Northern regional Division IV championship game at San Joaquin Delta College on Saturday, the Highlanders (31-2) struggled through some early valleys before defeating St. Mary's 46-38 to advance to the state championship game.

"I think that's what makes a good team — not playing well and still winning," said Piedmont's Ashley Paris, who paced her team with 16 points and 17 rebounds.

The victory was Piedmont's fifth straight over the Panthers (24-9) this season.

"Twenty-four and nine isn't too shabby," St. Mary's coach Sean Dulan said. "I just wish five losses weren't to Piedmont."

Still, in the early going, the Panthers seemed intent on breaking through against the Highlanders.

First, St. Mary's employed a zone defense that denied Piedmont's leading scorer Courtney Paris a basket for nearly 13 minutes. Two buckets by Nicole Thompson, who scored a team-high 14 points, and one basket by Natty Fripp gave the Panthers a 6-0 lead with 5:03 left in the first quarter.

"We knew what we had to do coming in," Thompson said. "Take away Courtney and force other girls to score."

Remarkably, the lead held for another two minutes — until Ashley Paris scored off a putback and hit a free throw to cut the lead in half with 3:07 to go in the first quarter. With 2:34 to go in the first, Annie Crangle knocked down the first of her three 3-

pointers to tie the game at 6-6.

The Highlanders were crawling out of their valley.

It was all part of an 18-2 run that had Piedmont up 18-8 with 3:07 to go in the first half. A buzzer-beating jumper by Fripp made it 18-10.

"It was a slow game for both teams," Ashley Paris said. "But once we got in the flow, we started to score."

The teams exchanged baskets throughout the third period and right into the fourth. When Fripp scored off a pass from Thompson to narrow the gap to 40-34 with 4:16 left in the game, St. Mary's appeared poised to regain the lead.

It didn't happen.

With 3:01 to go, Crangle slipped a loose ball to Courtney Paris, who scored off the offensive board and added a free throw for a 43-34 advantage.

Piedmont held on the rest of the way to win the title and avenge last year's loss to St. Mary's Stockton on the same court. This will be the Highlanders' first appearance in a state championship game.

Courtney Paris wound up with 12 points and 15 rebounds as Piedmont outrebounded the Panthers 44-28. Courtney Dunn

See HIGHLANDERS, Page 2

ANNIE CRANGLE, left, of Piedmont defends St. Mary's Nicole Thompson during their Division IV final.

HIGHLANDERS survive bad day on course

By Orlando Molina

STAFF WRITER

Piedmont High School boys golf coach Tommy Scales was relieved knowing that the Highlanders' match with El Cerrito on Tuesday was only a nonleague encounter after witnessing his team shooting well over par.

The Highlanders won the match 239-275, but the win was of little consolation for Scales as his top player for the day, Eddie Newman, shot a 43 on the par 36 course at Mira Vista in El Cerrito.

"The course wasn't too good out there. Our guys were embarrassed out there," Scales said. "I asked two of my guys how they did and they said, 'Coach, we don't want to talk about it.'"

Earlier in the day, Scales shot a round on the same course. And like his players, he had a round worth forgetting.

"I double-bogeyed a few holes myself. I don't like to go over; I like to shoot low," he said.

Doran said, "Dom is a taller

BSAL NOTEBOOK

St. Mary's boys golf team couldn't afford to have anybody absent or tardy for Tuesday's league match with St. Joseph as the Panthers brought only five players to the Alameda South Golf Course in a narrow 216-220 win.

Panthers coach Phil Doran said the reason for the thin lineup had to do with St. Mary's Enrichment Week, which allows students to either travel around the country or abroad to perform religious based community services or visit colleges.

"It got kids all over the world," Doran laughed. Among those absent was No. 2 player Robin Saulsbury, who was visiting UC Santa Barbara.

Doran did retain the services of No. 1 player Dominic Calegari, who shot a 3-over-par 35.

OH, BROTHER: Calegari, takes over the St. Mary's top slot in place of his older brother Gio, who graduated last year and is attending Cal State Monterey Bay.

Dominic plays for the basketball team and stands roughly 6 feet 5 inches, two inches taller than his brother.

Doran said, "Dom is a taller

St. Patrick, Salesian appear to be the teams to beat yet again

Co-champions of a year ago should battle it out for supremacy in the BSAL with John Swett nipping at their heels

By Scott Strain

STAFF WRITER

It's nearly impossible to rank the top two softball teams in the Bay Shore Athletic League.

St. Patrick, Salesian, Salesian, St. Patrick. Pick 'em.

The two teams were co-champions of the BSAL last year with 16-2 records, with John Swett right behind at 15-3. But according to St. Patrick coach Rich Gilotti, his Bruins split with the Indians and swept the Chieftains.

So give the nod to the Bruins. "All our games with the top contenders were close," Gilotti said.

"We sort of surprised some teams last season, but I'm looking forward to this one. It should be fun."

There is a definite top, middle and bottom to this league.

Holy Names has the returning MVP in pitcher Tamani Wells but has six new players — "new"

BSAL SOFTBALL PREVIEW

as in have never played this type of competitive softball.

Piedmont lost eight seniors and has begun the season 1-5, but if coach Lenny Parker gets his team to jell, the Highlanders could scrape up a few wins.

St. Mary's could surprise a few people, but the team to watch out for may be Albany. Third-year coach Becky Hopkirk has some returning talent but needs a power pitcher to put it together.

Albany

- COACH: Becky Hopkirk, third season

- 2003 RECORD: 9-12 overall, 8-10 BSAL

- TOP RETURNEES: 3B Danielle Moore, Sr.; 1B Lydia Raya, Sr.; P Sarah Dobrzensky, So.; 2B Lexie Cousins, So.; C/OF Sacha Maxwell, So.; P/C Leana Petri, So.; P Sydney McIver, Sr.; OF Vicki Rohrer, Sr.; Cate Lommen, So.

- TOP NEWCOMERS: OF Hilary Shiple, Jr.; OF Amanda Hansen, So.; OF Julia Greenwood, So.

- KEY LOSSES: OF Lisa Connolly, Of Lili Nelson, C/OF Elizabeth All

- OUTLOOK: With six returnees, the Cougars have something to build on.

Hopkirk believes her team can finish in the top tier of the league. Albany will go as far as its pitching will take it.

Holy Names

- COACH: Joe Taula, second season

- 2003 RECORD: 15-7, 11-7

- TOP RETURNEES: P Tamani Wells, Sr.; C Sarah DiSabatino, Sr.; 3B Portia Moore, Sr.

- TOP NEWCOMERS: SS Erin Archer, So.; Of Alyssa Perez, Fr.; Of Danielle Lacy, Fr.

- KEY LOSS: 2B Patti Archer

- OUTLOOK: The Monarchs may have the top pitcher-catcher duo in the league in Wells and DiSabatino, but they will have seven new players, six of whom have never played this competitive level of softball. A championship run may be slim, but as Taula says, "We have to work hard."

- And his new players? "There's nothing we can do but throw them out on the field and see what happens."

John Swett

- COACH: Greg Soria, second season

- 2003 RECORD: 18-6, 11-5

- TOP RETURNEES: P-SS Jason Bennett, So.; 2B Zach Babine, Fr.; P Brian Nelson, Jr.; OF Fred Atkins, So.

- KEY LOSSES: C Ian Gordon, SS Matt Ball, 2B Robert Diaz, P Thomas Coble

- OUTLOOK: The Indians don't have the pitching depth they've enjoyed in seasons past, but the defense has

See SOFTBALL, Page 2

See BSAL, Page 2

Baseball

FROM PAGE 1

they can play consistently on defense and score some runs. "But it's going to take some work," Salibridi admits.

Piedmont

■ COACH: Mike Humphries, 30th season

■ 2003 RECORD: 10-13, 6-10

■ TOP RETURNEES: C Ryan Choi, Sr.; CF David Tovari, Sr.; SS Jon Cox, Jr.

■ TOP NEWCOMERS: P OF Mike Saenz, Fr.; OF-P Rick Relinger, So.; Of Ben Burg, Jr.

■ KEY LOSS: P Nikhi Aurora

■ OUTLOOK: Humphries says his team is in a rebuilding year. The upside for future seasons is huge. As for this year, a handful of returning players complements some up-and-coming talent. Some coaches expect the Highlanders to be a contender. Others see Piedmont as a middle-of-the-pack to lower echelon team. For sure, as Humphries predicts, it will be an interesting season for the Highlanders.

St. Elizabeth

■ COACH: David Burke, first season

BSAL

FROM PAGE 1

player with a different approach. He has soft hands, and he might be better than (Gio). But I wouldn't tell his brother that."

GOTCHA!: Still stinging from back-to-back losses at the hands of Ferndale in the North Coast Section Class A semifinal game the past two years, members of the Indians football team found a way to exact a small measure

■ 2003 RECORD: 4-19, 0-16
■ TOP RETURNEES: P-C Nick Benavidez, Sr.; SS-P Orlando Crum, So.; IF-P Aaron Kingdom, So.; P-IF Matthew Marz, Jr.; CF David Johnson, So.; 1B Jamil Cromartie, So.; Of David Madrigal, So.

■ TOP NEWCOMERS: 3B Juan Casillas, So.; If Gabriel Goliath, So.; Of Max Whitaker, So.

■ KEY LOSS: P Marcus Felentroy

■ OUTLOOK: The Mustangs finished last in the BSA last year despite the presence of Felentroy, who is now at the University of Texas. This year, Burke — an assistant under former coach Warren Winters — takes over a team that is very young. The Mustangs have 12 sophomores on their roster with just one junior and one senior. St. Elizabeth will try to move up a notch or two, but it's going to be hard.

St. Joseph Notre Dame

■ COACH: Mark Palmore, first season

■ 2003 RECORD: 10-14, 8-8

■ TOP RETURNEES: P-J Marquis Fleming, Sr.; P-Utill Dustin Chavez, Sr.; C Matt Dickinson, Jr.; SS Mark Almeida, Jr.; LF-P Zack Braband, So.; 1B-P Noah Mitchell, Sr.

■ TOP NEWCOMERS: 2B-P Joe Repuliano, Jr.; CF Nick Rivera, Jr.

■ KEY LOSS: P Chad Freitas

of revenge. They beat the Wildcats on the baseball diamond.

The Indians baseball team, which is made up mostly of football players, beat Ferndale in Crockett 4-2 on March 10.

"We got 12 of our 14 kids who play varsity football, and they were fired up. They were fired up in the office when they first saw it on the schedule," Indians coach Mike Leite said. "They were excited to get a little revenge."

The Indians faced a 2-0 hole

■ OUTLOOK: In December, the team — the entire St. Joseph Notre Dame community, in fact — was stung by the sudden death of 24-year coach Ray Freitas. Palmore, though in his first year, is not a complete unknown. He is a coach for the Oakland Oaks youth program and has coached previously at San Leandro High. This year's Pilots are a small squad, just 11 players, whose major assets are defense and speed.

"I'm trying to get the kids to buy into my philosophy and approach," Palmore says. "But it's a fun group of kids. They work hard."

Palmore sees his team finishing with a better-than-.500 record. That should leave the Pilots somewhere in the middle of the standings.

St. Mary's

■ COACH: Andy Shimabukuro, eighth season

■ 2003 RECORD: 16-8, 11-5

■ TOP RETURNEES: P-J Alex Jensen, Sr.; If Andy Lawson, Jr.; Of Spencer Winton, Jr.; P Scott Tully, Jr.; C Dave McGuiness, Jr.

■ TOP NEWCOMERS: If Noah Ingram, So.; If Ade Olarewaju, So.

■ KEY LOSSES: OF-P Peter McGuiness, Of Chris Morocco, P Tyler Nation

■ OUTLOOK: On paper, the Panthers look to have a competitive team. The

in the third inning before rallying to win.

Leite said the Indians were very vocal group with Jimmy Porter and T.J. Ratliff leading the cheers. John Angell, the Swett football coach and softball assistant coach, attended the game and made a playful push to put Leite on the football coaching staff.

"(Angell) said I should be put on the (football) staff because I beat Ferndale and he hasn't," Leite said.

sophomore pitching tandem of Danielle Mason and Janna Dias, a transfer from De Anza. Mason is 2-1 and Dias is 2-0.

Jenna Peters has been pounding the ball for Pinole Valley. The senior catcher is 7-for-10 in the last four games with five RBI.

One of the Spartans' victories this season is over Alhambra, the team that beat Pinole Valley in the quarterfinals of the NCS 2A East Bay playoffs last season. Dias hurled a four-

hit shutout in the Spartans' 1-0 victory over the Bulldogs on March 11. Melinda Lozenski had the game-winning RBI.

"They have kept their composure in close games," Torres said about his team.

Pinole Valley played their first five games in a seven-day period between March 10 and March 16.

"I think we will only get better right now with practice," Torres said.

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St. Elizabeth

■ COACH: Dewayne Hornage, second season

■ 2003 RECORD: 2-14 BSAL

■ TOP RETURNEE: 2B Angelina Fratet, Sr.

■ TOP NEWCOMERS: 3B Sherall Duncan, Jr.; SS Dana Thomas, So.

■ KEY LOSSES: N/A

■ OUTLOOK: Spencer comes to the Kennedy program from De Anza, where she coached two years of junior varsity softball and one of varsity. "I understand (Kennedy) won one (nonleague) game last year," she said. "This year we're hoping for two or three (wins)."

Kennedy

■ COACH: Kizzie Spencer, first season

■ 2003 RECORD: 0-11 BSAL

■ TOP RETURNEE: 2B Angelina Fratet, Sr.

■ TOP NEWCOMERS: 3B Sherall Duncan, Jr.; SS Dana Thomas, So.

■ KEY LOSSES: N/A

■ OUTLOOK: Spencer comes to the Kennedy program from De Anza, where she coached two years of junior varsity softball and one of varsity. "I understand (Kennedy) won one (nonleague) game last year," she said. "This year we're hoping for two or three (wins)."

Piedmont

■ COACH: Lenny Parker, 10th season

■ 2003 RECORD: 11-11, 11-7

■ TOP RETURNEES: C Sally Peterson, Jr.; SS Sally Baker, So.; 1B Anna Berger, So.; P-Gail Fitzsimmons, Sr.

■ TOP NEWCOMERS: Of Jamie Albers, Fr.; Of Eva Bassett, Fr.; P Jessica Bixby, Fr.; 3B Sophie Coyley, Fr.; Of Joanne Fong, Fr.; INF Katherine Gunley, Fr.; Of Allison Shuster, Fr.

■ KEY LOSSES: 1B Maggie Hall, P-INF Monica Linzer, Of Erika Tietjen, CF-P Maggie Hall, C Jennifer Woo, INF Caitlin Lyman, INF Molly Wooster

■ OUTLOOK: Look at those seven freshmen in top newcomers. That's the real potential of this team. Look at the key losses — all seven of them. That's the real downside. The Highlanders have started 1-5 this season, losing to Campolindo, Berean Christian, Alhambra, Moreau Catholic and Acalanes — all heavyweights. If non-league toughening is what Piedmont needs, the Highlanders have had it. They're probably a year away.

Salesian

■ COACH: Dolores Bonds, 14th season

■ 2003 RECORD: 17-5, 16-2

■ TOP RETURNEES: P Allison Donnelly Jr.; SS Sarah Voisey, Jr.; 1B Tiffany Spradlin, Sr.; 3B Stephanie Kloski, So.; Of Erin Turner, Jr.; Of Andrea Salvador, Sr.; Of Arielle Salvador, Sr.

■ TOP NEWCOMERS: C Christina

battle for first place, Shimabukuro says, will come down to which team has the best second starting pitcher and the top reliever. Look for the Panthers to be a contender.

St. Patrick

■ COACH: Josh Daniels, first season

■ 2003 RECORD: 18-8, 12-4

■ TOP RETURNEES: P Brett Murray, Sr.; SS Chriag Galigian, Sr.; 2B Ed Kyle Kesteloot, Sr.; C Andrew Altman, Sr.; 1B Derek Russell, Jr.; 3B Ed Blakeley, Jr.; P Andy Cordeiro, Jr.

■ TOP NEWCOMERS: Of Vincenzo Pallotta, Sr.; Util John Ortelle, Jr.; Of Brandon Matthews, Jr.; 3B Erik Garcia, Jr.; Of Darius Ball, So.

■ KEY LOSSES: Of Pat O'Donnell, 1B-OF Will Dunlap, Of Jonathan Wilson, Sr.; 3B Brandon Kitchen

■ OUTLOOK: The Bruins appear to be loaded with talent. Muraton was the league's co-MVP last year, and the second starter, Cordeiro, was 4-0. In addition, the team returns its starting catcher, first baseman, second

baseman and shortstop. The outfield looks strong and Daniels — an assistant under former coach Kirby Altman last season, has added three assistants: a pitching coach, an infield coach and an outfield coach. The latter also doubles as a hitting coach. This team could — and should — go far.

Salesian

■ COACH: Travis Tarchione, ninth season

■ 2003 RECORD: 14-12, 9-7

■ TOP RETURNEES: 3B Dan Moresco, Jr.; RF Nick Farrell, Sr.; C Robert Van Lucy, Sr.; 2B Chris Greer, Sr.; SS-P Dominic Barley, Sr.; PSS Jordan Jackson, Jr.; P1-B Harris Bowman, Sr.; P1-B Robert Trujillo, Sr.; LF David Adams, Sr.

■ TOP NEWCOMERS: CF Jake Haskell, Sr.; PSS Daniel Alcaire, Fr.; Of Kyle Roach, So.

■ KEY LOSSES: Of Kyle Bethel, P Randy Henn, Of Mike Ricciuto

■ OUTLOOK: The Chieftains have

PREDICT FINISH

- 1. St. Patrick
- 2. St. Mary's
- 3. John Sweet
- 4. Albany
- 5. Salesian
- 6. St. Joseph
- 7. Piedmont
- 8. Kennedy
- 9. St. Elizabeth

many returning players with national wisdom, most would team to have a good season. Tarchione cautions, though, of these players are not likely, but don't be surprised if the team moves up a couple of spots from its projected finish.

think we went a long way people thought we were. The Yellow Jackets dug deep and cut the deficit to one in the fourth quarter, only to fall 66-61 in Berkeley. The No. 3 Cardinals lost to top-seeded Oakland Tech in the NorCal final on Saturday at Arco Arena.

Guard Shawajae James capped a 10-0 Berkeley run by completing a three-point play to cut the deficit to 60-59 with 2:44 left in the game. But the No. 2 seed Yellow Jackets' inability to stop Laguna Creek's dribble penetration down the stretch did them in. Anna Pineda drove into the key and hit a short jumper, and Jessica Wilson scored on a finger roll to put the Cardinals up 64-59 with 1:47 to go.

Wilson led all scorers with 28 points.

"We were allowing way too much penetration and not picking people up," St. Mary's co-coach Don Nakamura said. "We stayed in the game with good defensive pressure."

St. Mary's bolted out to a 21-9 lead in the first quarter before holding a 33-22 halftime advantage.

"I thought we came out with intensity at the front end. We had a little complacency in the second quarter," Lawson said.

St. Mary's Shantrell Sneed led all scorers with 15 points. Fipp added 13 points for the Panthers.

Laguna Creek 66, Berkeley 61

61: The game was there for the taking for Berkeley.

The fans knew it. The players knew it. Even Laguna Creek coach Glenn Mayol knew it.

Despite being down 16 points

in the second quarter of last Thursday night's CIF Division I semifinal game, the Yellow Jackets dug deep and cut the deficit to one in the fourth quarter, only to fall 66-61 in Berkeley. The No. 3 Cardinals lost to top-seeded Oakland Tech in the NorCal final on Saturday at Arco Arena.

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PLAYING

capsule reviews of movies at area theaters. Reviewers are Linda Johnson and Mary F. Pols, with W. Butler, Chris Hewitt, Steve Rea and Carrie Hageman Ridder Newspapers; and Bruce Newman, San Francisco Chronicle; David Germain, Mercury News; David Germain, Sacramento Bee and Ben Nuckles, Associated Press; Dave Kehr, Elvis Mitchell, Scott, New York Times; Jami and Jack Matthews, New York Times; Phoebe Flowers, South Bay Sentinel; Evan Henderson, Daily News; Glenn Whipp, Los Angeles Times; Kevin Crust, Daily News; Kevin Thomas and Tom Berg, Los Angeles Times; Chris Vognar and Lauren, Dallas Morning News; Roger Moore, Orlando Sentinel; Sue Battelle, Sacramento Bee; and Wesley Morris, Globe; Ann Hornaday, Stephen Danson Thomson, Washington Post.

CODY BANKS 2: DESTINATION (R): In this sequel, Cody and Muniz are dispatched to locate a mysterious mind-screamer before the bad guys implant the teeth of world leaders. Jim Jarmusch's Bond paper seems aimed at a very young audience, which is why the director downplays a larger with a longer bad guy, one of whom leaves a note on Cody and company. Still, it's much nastiness and threatence that it doesn't seem appropriate for them, either. — N.

(PG: action violence and some humor.) 1 hour, 33 minutes.

ABURBAN INVASIONS: This comic drama about attempting to escape one's life has writer/directors Arcand's trademark bit of the film's energy

from Remi (Hély Gérard), a collector of history now dying of cancer in a hellishly hellish Montreal hospital. Remi and an ex-wife; he sees them, but most of all, he is a dad and about his son Sébastien (Stéphane Rousseau). This prequel is the sequel to *The Decline of the American C. T. K. Turan. (R: language, dialogue and drug content.) 1 hour, 1 minute.*

BHOP 2: BACK IN BUSINESS: In this sequel to 2002's amiable how-to incendiary work-a-day economic politics play bigger role. Happily resigned to his father's place is going to Calvin (Ice Cube) is initially seen as a shiny new mini-mail

OPENING TODAY

"THE CODE (LA MENTALE)" (NR)

A man returns to a quiet life with his fiance after four years in prison, only to be lured into one more heist.

"DAWN OF THE DEAD" (R)

Sarah Polley and Ving Rhames star in this re-imaging of George Romero's apocalyptic zombie horror classic.

"ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND" (R)

Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet star in this film about love and memory; scripted by Charlie Kaufman ("Adaptation").

"LOVE OBJECT" (NR)

going up across the street. But when the mall's anchor store turns out to be a state-of-the-art chain styling emporium, he and the gang realize they're in a fight for survival. The focus, quite rightly, is on Calvin and Cedric the Entertainer's Eddie. Constantly engaged and intelligent, this sequel is anything but business as usual. — B. Strauss. (PG-13: language, violence.) 1 hour, 38 minutes. B+

"CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN"

Despite earnest performances from Lindsay Lohan and her teen co-stars, a painfully unfunny affair dulled up with hip fashions and a large music budget, Lohan plays Lola, a die-hard Manhattanite who moves to New Jersey with her mom and twin sisters. The class princess and her gang of harpies set out to undermine her. — D. German. (PG: mild thematic elements, brief language.) 1 hour, 32 minutes. D+

"DIRTY DANCING: HAVANA NIGHTS"

A "reimaging" of the original "Dirty Dancing," starring Diego Luna and Romola Garai and set in 1958 Cuba. She's an affluent American who hangs out at a fancy hotel; he's a Cuban fellow who waits tables there. This couple, Katy and Javier, must meet on the sly, away from the protective eyes of her parents and the snobish (even racist) eyes of her peers. Their forbidden relationship turns out to be about such lofty abstractions as supporting the art of the dance and fighting nobility. Fine sentiments, but where's the heat? This film's too noble to get down and dirty. — J. Boyar. (PG-13: sensuality.) 1 hour, 26 minutes. B

"THE DREAMERS": Bernardo Bertolucci will soon be 64, but this NC-17-rated film seems like the sex fantasies of a college student with a bang. Begs more questions than it answers,

The twisted tale of a socially insecure tech writer who becomes obsessed with an anatomically correct sex doll.

"THE RECKONING" (R)

A murder mystery set in the Middle Ages, but with modern themes about evil, justice and the power of art.

"TAKING LIVES" (R)

Angelina Jolie plays an FBI profiler trying to nab a serial killer she thinks is stealing victims' identities. With Ethan Hawke and Keifer Sutherland.

"THE TRACKER" (NR)

David Gulpilil ("Rabbit-Proof Fence") stars in this tale about a manhunt through the Australian outback in 1922.

"LOVE OBJECT" (NR)

Set in Paris during the 1968 riots, it focuses less on politics than the sexual envelope-pushing of its three young, gorgeous protagonists. Quasi-incest, even. Dresses up sex as high art, with disposable intellectualism. — M. Polis. (PG-13: some sexual content.) 1 hour, 39 minutes. D+

"EUROTRIP"

The pick of the year so far for the late teen, early-twentysomething gross-out crowd, piling on unsightly gags about S&M sexual ads and nude beaches overrun by horny men. The thin story line centers on Scotty, who reboots a cyber-pass from his German e-mail pen pal, Mieke, thinking it's a homosexual advance. Too late, Scotty learns that "Mieke" is a girl's name and that this is the babe of his dreams. With the help of a few friends, he sets out to Berlin to find her.

— D. German. (R: sexuality, nudity, language and drug-alcohol content.) 1 hour, 31 minutes. C

"50 FIRST DATES"

Adam Sandler plays Henry, a marine-park veterinarian who falls hopelessly in love with Lucy (Drew Barrymore), an art teacher who suffers short-term memory loss. Each day, Lucy's recall is wiped clean, so Henry must win her back over and over. At times so sweet, you'll wish the comedy relief weren't so drawn out and crude; and Henry's profession is but an elaborate excuse for the Marine World equivalent of sex and flatulence jokes. — G. Lovell. (PG-13: sex, language, crude humor.) 1 hour, 36 minutes. B-

"THE FOG OF WAR"

Erol Morris' Oscar-winning documentary about the life lessons learned by Robert S. McNamara, former secretary of Defense for JFK and LBJ, from his involvement in World War II and the Vietnam War. Begs more questions than it answers, but where's the heat? This film's too noble to get down and dirty. — J. Boyar. (PG-13: sensuality.) 1 hour, 26 minutes. B

"THE DREAMERS":

Bernardo Bertolucci will soon be 64, but this NC-17-rated film seems like the sex fantasies of a college student with a bang. Begs more questions than it answers,

and don't expect an apology from McNamara, who is still cagey. Make no mistake: He's in charge, not Morris. But the film is of obvious interest, and in these uncertain times, the lessons McNamara gleaned in hindsight are of piercing relevance. — M. Polis. (PG-13: some scenes of violence.) 1 hour, 46 minutes. B+

"GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING"

An art history mystery about the imagined origins of a painting by 17th century Dutch master Vermeer, the titular "Girl With a Pearl Earring." Based on the novel by Tracy Chevalier, the film suggests that the unknown model was a maid in the Vermeer household, a lovely young thing named Griet (Scarlett Johansson) whom the verveer (Cinna Firth) had some deep connection with. Composed of many moments of the two staring silently at each other, the movie is as beautiful to look at as a Vermeer, thanks to cinematographer Eduardo Serra, but it also is stately, pretentious swirl. — M. Polis. (PG-13: some sexual content.) 1 hour, 39 minutes. D+

"GOOD BYE, LENIN!"

This film is funny but not a comedy, serious but never overbearing, emotional in an engaging and bittersweet way. Right before the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989, Alex's socialist mother, Christiane, falls into a coma, sleeping through "the biggest eight months in modern German history." When she does wake up, the doctor warns that excitement could be life-threatening. Determined to protect her, Alex devotes most of his waking hours to re-creating the gone world of East Germany for his bedridden mother. — K. Turan. (R: brief language, sexuality; German with English subtitles.) 1 hour, 58 minutes. A

"GREENDALE"

Neil Young has turned his self-described musical novel "Greendale" into an unapologetically personal and passionately political film that brings the album to life in a way that transcends the traditional long-form music video. The contrast of Young's sweet, comforting warble and the occasional screech and twang of his music is echoed in the vibrantly colorful home-movie feel of what is on screen. By the time "Greendale" reaches its rousing crescendo with the anthem "Be the Rain," Young has crafted one genuinely tasty slice of Americana. — K. Crust. (Not rated.) 1 hour, 12 minutes. A-

"HIDALGO"

Viggo Mortensen stars in this Disney Western about a man, a Bedouin princess, a female fatale, a painted horse and a race across 3,000 miles of Arabian desert, circa 1890. His Frank T. Hopkins, a U.S. Cavalry courier and long-distance horse racer rescued from a life of touring with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show by sheiks

and don't expect an apology from McNamara, who is still cagey. Make no mistake: He's in charge, not Morris. But the film is of obvious interest, and in these uncertain times, the lessons McNamara gleaned in hindsight are of piercing relevance. — M. Polis. (PG-13: some scenes of violence.) 1 hour, 16 minutes. C

"HOUSE OF SAND AND FOG"

An adaptation of Andre Dubus III's best-selling novel. His plot, a contemporary American tragedy centered on a real estate squabble between a former drug addict wrongfully evicted from her house (Jennifer Connolly) and the Iranian immigrant who buys it on auction (Ben Kingsley) had the germ of genius, but the execution hovered in the realm of melodrama. Thankfully, Vadim Perelman's devastatingly somber movie spares us the weak writing, tones down the hysteria somewhat and features some of the best performances of the year from Kingsley, Connolly and Shohreh Aghdashloo. No one is completely sympathetic and the story is as bleak as can be, but it's worth it. — M. Polis. (R: some violence/disturbing images, language and a scene of sexual activity.) 2 hours, 6 minutes. A-

"MIRACLE"

The perennially underappreciated Kurt Russell gives an assured, intelligent performance as coach Herb Brooks in this well-made film about the 1980 Olympic gold-medal-winning U.S. hockey team. Director Gavin O'Connor sensibly cast real hockey players, recruited from colleges and some pro teams. As a result, the on-ice action feels genuinely exciting. — M. Polis. (PG: language and some rough sports action.) 2 hours, 16 minutes. B+

"MONSIEUR IBRAHIM"

Omar Sharif returns to the screen in one of the niches roles of his 50-year career: Ibrahim is a Turkish-born Muslim, an unpretentious grocer rich in spirit rather than material wealth. The film initially focuses on Momo (Pierre Boulanger), a Jewish teenager who lives nearby with his rigid and hypercritical father. A father-and-son bond eventually grows between Ibrahim and Momo as Momo's relationship with his actual father deteriorates. — K. Thomas. (R: some sexual content; in French and Turkish with English subtitles.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. C

"KITCHEN STORIES"

Subversively funny film set in the 1950s about a crack team of Swedish kitchen scientists sent across the border to investigate and improve the lives of cranky Norwegian bachelor farmers. — B. Strauss. (Not rated; in Norwegian and Swedish with English subtitles.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. B+

"LA MENTALE (THE CODE)"

Dris (Samuel Le Bihan) is a rugged, charismatic man whose virile image masks a weak character. Out of prison and promising his loyal wife to go straight, he takes a menial job loading trucks, but is dogged by his cousin, who is determined to become a kingpin in the Paris underworld and believes he needs Dris to pull off an elaborate and lucrative heist. The filmmakers bring alive a shadowy, ultraviolent world of racy clubs, dark alleys and ever-shifting underworld alliances and rivalries. — K. Thomas. (R: strong violence, language and sexuality; in French, with profanity.) 1 hour, 46 minutes. B+

"THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING"

Director Peter Jackson's magnificent finale to the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy reminds us of the magic possible in filmmaking. The journey into Mordor continues simultaneously with the defense of Gondor against the Orc army. Standout performances include Sean Astin as Samwise Gamgee, Miranda Otto's woman warrior and Viggo Mortensen as Aragorn, whose rallying cry in battle makes you want to throw down your popcorn, pick up a sword and rush the screen to help. An epic, a masterpiece, a treasure. — M. Polis. (PG-13: intense battle sequences, frightening images.) 3 hours, 21 minutes. A

"LOST IN TRANSLATION"

Everything about writer-director Sofia Coppola's wry and wistful film is lovely, and that includes, of all things, the presence and performance of Bill Murray. He plays an aging American actor in Tokyo to film commercials for a Japanese whiskey. Bored, depressed about his lousy marriage and jet-lagged, he meets a young American woman (Scarlett Johansson) who has accompanied her photographer husband (Giovanni Ribisi) to Japan. They end up wandering Tokyo together, developing a fleeting but intense friendship. Murray is at his absolute best, and Coppola proves she's a director to watch. — M. Polis. (R: some sexual

bombs.) 2 hours, 17 minutes. A-

"OSAMA"

This fictional Afghan film takes place sometime before U.S. bombs began falling on Kabul, when the Taliban was ravaging the country. It recounts the twisted story of a 12-year-old girl forced into male disguise in order to work to feed herself, her mother and grandmother, and that of Afghan women whose right to exist was all but denied in the name of God. Raw and wretchedly current, it packs a cruel emotional wallop. — M. Dargis. (PG-13: mature thematic elements.) 1 hour, 22 minutes. B+

"THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST"

Mei Gibson directed and co-wrote this literal — and relentlessly brutal — retelling of the last 12 hours of Jesus' life. Although deeply intense and at times moving, the film is so violent, it

content.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. A

"MASTER AND COMMANDER: THE FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD": From director Peter Weir, a beautiful and brawny rendition of Patrick O'Brian's tales of friendship and adventure on the high seas in the early 19th century. A British war ship pursues a high-tech (for the times) French ship from Brazil to the Galapagos Islands. Russell Crowe makes an able Captain Jack Aubrey and Paul Bettany an endearing Stephen Maturin, the ship's surgeon, a pacifist and Jack's best friend. The action sequences are first-rate, and the tender affection between the men aboard is something rarely seen in movies. — M. Polis. (PG-13: intense battle sequences, related images and brief language.) 2 hours, 8 minutes. A-

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"MONSTER": Charlize Theron pulls off the year's most astounding screen makeover as Aileen Wuornos, the notorious Florida murderer. Director Patty Jenkins uncovers the lost, love-starved child cowering under the killer's hard shell. Wuornos, who confessed to murdering six men in the late 1980s and early '90s, died in the electric chair in 2002. By the time the movie begins, Wuornos has plied her trade for years as a hitchhiking low-rent prostitute working the highways of central Florida. The film focuses on her desperate, last-ditch relationship with Selby Wall (Christina Ricci), the lesbian lover who ended up testifying against her. — S. Holden. (R: graphic rape scene, several murders and abundant profanity.) 1 hour, 51 minutes. B+

"MYSTIC RIVER": There are many reasons to admire this dark drama, from the remarkable level of acting talent of Peter Jackson's magnificent finale to the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

The film stimulates its audience like a classic old-fashioned mystery, the tension building to almost painful levels.

Two tragedies lie at its heart, with breakout performances by Sean Penn and Tim Robbins as childhood friends forever shaped by ominous events. — M. Polis. (R: language, violence.) 2 hours, 17 minutes. A-

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- 45 Homebody
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56 Zipped through

58 ___ instant

59 Spicy stew

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64 "Carol King's" "Too Late"

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73 Relay part

74 Part of many cages

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78 Garbage

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160 ___ ___ Arthur Miller character

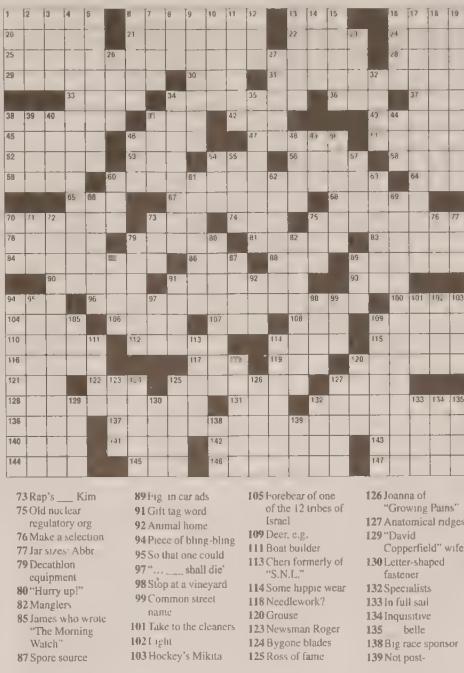
161 Sharp-tongued "American Idol" judge

162 Act. figures

163 Messenger

164 Wartime positions

165 Broad neck scarf



dence points her way, she begins to wonder if she has inherited Dad's homicidal urges. Samuel L. Jackson and Andy Garcia have low-impact roles in this convoluted thriller wannabe. — P. Wunsch. (R: violence, sex, language, nudity.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. C-

"YOU GOT SERVED": David and Elgin, leaders of a street dance troupe, take on all comers. No crew in Los Angeles can touch their scintillating

moves until Wade, a smooth-haired suburban white boy, pack to steal their thunder, and there really isn't much of a movie video—no rift between David and Elgin, leaders of a street dance troupe, to show up Wade? — D. (PG-13: drug and sexual violence.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. C-

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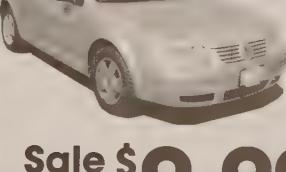
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Sunday fund-raiser helps Oakland indies

By Brian Kluepfel
CORRESPONDENT

It was at a Claremont Library "story swap," the tale-tellers' equivalent of an open mike, that Mary Ellen Hill had a premonition of her future. As she listened to the stories pour forth from the intimate circle, she said to herself, "that's what I want to do with my life."

It was something, in fact, with which the transplanted Hoosier had some little experience. The Indianapolis native began her professional life in Colorado as a second- and third-grade teacher, and thus had plenty of experience getting — and holding — the wee ones' attention.

After relocating to the Bay Area in 1987, she attended Holy Names College in Oakland, studying under Matthew Fox and Brian Swimme. Then Hill plunged wholeheartedly into lore and legend, from Native American traditions to those of cultures around the globe. She holds a master's degree in spirituality and eco-justice from The Institute of Culture and Creation Spirituality at Holy Names, a certificate in storytelling from Dominican College in San Rafael, a bachelor's degree in education from St. Mary's College in Indiana and a life teaching license in elementary and special education.

Her professional career had an auspicious start — it was 1990, at an Earth Day celebration in UC Berkeley's panoramic Botanical Garden. "What a great beginning!" Hill enthused. And isn't a great beginning what all

IF YOU GO

■ WHAT: Mary Ellen Hill tells "Spring Tales" celebrating the vernal equinox.

■ WHERE: Laurel Bookstore, 4100 MacArthur Blvd., between High Street and 39th, Oakland. Another performance will take place at ChangeMakers Bookstore, 6536 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, on April 3 at 5:30 p.m.

■ WHEN: Sunday March 21, 7:8:30 p.m.

■ TICKETS: \$5 adults, \$3 children

■ INFORMATION: 510-531-2074, www.mehstories.com

storytellers are after?

"I love to tell creation myths about how the first rainbow appeared, why some trees stay green, why Sun and Moon live in the sky, how night came from the sea," said Hill.

Sunday's reading at ChangeMakers Bookstore, on the site of the old Mama Bear's store, will be another of her seasonal celebrations, fitting for the first weekend of spring.

Her stories are often interactive and involve props. She doesn't read from books; instead, she calls it "a sort of learning by heart," wherein she memorizes the salient points of a tale, and then is free to improvise certain sections, depending on audience reaction. "I build a relationship with the story and we get to know each other, and I think of ways we can perhaps build on it, like creating dialog where there



STORYTELLER MARY ELLEN HILL will share "Spring Tales" at appearances in Berkeley and Oakland this month and next.

isn't any," she explained.

She is constantly building her repertoire. "I just learned a tall tale from Japan, and I had never told a tall tale before!" she said. It's a connection back to her old days at Holy Names and Brian Swimme, though, that has spurred Hill's specialty.

"We Are the Stars That Sing: The Story of the Universe" weaves separate strands of myth and science into the fabric of the 15-billion-year history of the solar system. It combines a little bit of what Hill is all about: myth, song, story and cosmology. Though the other stories she tells are based on existing tales, "Stars That Sing" is her own creation.

In addition to spinning yarns around California classrooms, Hill

also passes her storytelling fancy on to the next generation through Puppets and Pie, a project she does with creative partner Gitty Duncan. Their summer workshops result in children learning all aspects of a theatrical production, then putting one on.

Her friend and mentor Swimme summarized what Hill does for her audiences, great and small. "By telling stories of the universe that are grounded in contemporary science and nourished by spiritual traditions, Mary Ellen energizes and informs us all," he said.

Reach Berkeley freelance writer Brian Kluepfel at bkluempf@hotmail.com.

STAFF FILE/2002
ACHDEV play a bansuri, Indian flute, during his May 2002 with Swapna Chaudhuri at St. John's Presbyterian Church in

Indian music group play at celebration

of the proceeds of
Saturday will go
anti-sweatshop
organization

by Janet Levaux
STAFF WRITER

BEKELEY — A group of Indian musicians will perform Saturday at St. John's Presbyterian Church in Berkeley to raise a variety of events. They bring together G.S. Sachdev, the bansuri, or flute, Swapna Chaudhuri on piano. They will be joined by a musician on background

and have played since the '70s," said Sachdev's son Sachdev, the concert's director. "It's a local home and a place for many Indian families to love the place. It's a space for that type of mu-

senior Sachdev — who taught at Ali Akbar College in San Rafael, his own school in Berkeley and — turns 70 on March 20.

The younger Sachdev designed the event's posters, and then got help from sponsors, including KPFA radio and Your Daily Staple, a promotion service.

The concert hall hosts nearly 500 people, and fans from throughout the Bay Area are expected.

"I've been selling tickets from Mount Shasta, Los Angeles, Santa Cruz and other places," Amar said.

Reach Janet Levaux at 510-339-4060 or jlevaux@cctimes.com.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BEST-SELLERS

Compiled from sales at 45 independent bookstores in Northern California.

Fiction

1. "The Da Vinci Code," by Dan Brown. (Doubleday, \$24.95.)
2. "The Five People You Meet in Heaven," by Mitch Albom. (Hyperion, \$19.95.)
3. "The Birth of Venus," by Sarah Dunant. (Random House, \$21.95.)
4. "The Last Juro," by John Grisham. (Doubleday, \$27.95.)
5. "3rd Degree," by James Patterson and Andrew Greer. (Little Brown, \$26.95.)
6. "The Confessions of Max Tivoli," by Andrew Sean Greer. (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$23.)
7. "The Game," by Laurie R. King. (Bantam, \$23.95.)
8. "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time," by Mark Haddon. (Doubleday, \$22.95.)
9. "The Namesake," by Jhumpa Lahiri. (Houghton Mifflin, \$24.)
10. "The Bookman's Promise," by John Dunning. (Scribner, \$25.)

Nonfiction

1. "The South Beach Diet," by Arthur Agatston M.D. (Rodale, \$24.95.)
2. "The Price of Loyalty," by Ron Suskind. (Simon & Schuster, \$26.)
3. "American Dynasty," by Kevin Phillips. (Viking, \$25.95.)
4. "The Proper Care and Feeding of Husbands," by Dr. Laura Schlessinger. (HarperCollins, \$24.95.)
5. "The Fabric of the Cosmos," by Brian Greene. (Knopf, \$28.95.)
6. "Lies & the Lying Liars Who Tell Them," by Al Franken. (Dutton, \$24.95.)
7. "Skeletons on the Zahara," by Dean King. (Little Brown, \$24.95.)

assembled a pair of majestic, as well as amusing, totems, made of 24 folded-and-cut paper images. The red and black cutouts have stylized faces, on a white background. Some are stern and frightening, others delightful, with a high percentage of two-dimensional cats in the mix. There's even a lion, maybe inspired by the two-dimensional costumes for "The Lion King."

The same school's fifth-graders have created unglazed clay storytelling figures that look like the evocative, mysterious terra-cotta relics found in excavations of early civilizations.

At the other end of the spectrum, students from Berkeley Alternative High School have turned scraps of colored paper, cut-up photographs and text into portraits. Some look like mosaics, while others easily match the impact of collaged illustrations in slick magazines.

Third-graders at Thousand Oaks Elementary School weigh in with their "I Have a Dream..." project. They cut out more or less identical clouds, mounted them on paper, then wrote and illustrated their hopes for the future. Most of their dreams are familiar, such as world peace and an end to violence. Three of the youngsters dream of a future with no smoking. One youngster declares "I have a dream" about a world where there is "no animal killing for clothes."

Reach Robert Taylor at 925-977-8428 or rtaylor@cctimes.com.

GALLERIES

ALBANY COMMUNITY CENTER

FINE ARTS: Photographs by Steve Palmer through April 23, 1249 Marin Ave. (at Masonic Avenue), Albany. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays-Fridays and during hours the adjacent city library is open, free. 510-524-9283. Check out more of Palmer's work at www.palmer-photoart.com.

TURN OF THE CENTURY

FINE ARTS: Paintings by Patrick O'Kiersey through March 31, 2510 San Pablo Ave. (near Dwight Way), Berkeley. 1-4:30 p.m. Thursdays, noon-6 p.m. Fridays-Sundays, free. 510-849-0950.

BERKELEY ART CENTER

Berkeley student art exhibit through April 3, 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. Noon-5 p.m. Wednesdays-Sundays, free. 510-644-6893.

The exhibit will be of greatest interest to youngsters, their families and teachers. But some of the abstract works look like they're part of the art mainstream, and even the most basic art class assignments reveal some personal or social content.

Visiting an exhibit like this one is an opportunity to literally see what kids in the Bay Area are thinking. Sadly, these are the kinds of creative art projects that face an uncertain future in a time of stripped-down school budgets. (More works by young artists are on view at the Lynn House Gallery in Antioch and Bedford Gallery in Walnut Creek.)

Fifth-graders at Malcolm X Elementary School in Berkeley have

drawings, collage, photography and poetry books and sculpture, mostly by elementary and junior school students, with some artwork as well.

Reach Robert Taylor at 925-977-8428 or rtaylor@cctimes.com.

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Arts & Leisure

Friday, March 19, 2004



BILL MANN
Multimedia Notes

Talent wins out over TV age-ism

YOU HEAR A lot about women having a hard time finding — and keeping — work in TV as they age. Sadly, that's all too often true. But it also happens to men in this cruel business.

Take the case of Jack Hanson, a fixture on KGO-TV for more than 20 years — until 10 years ago, when he was cut loose. The bright, personable Hanson had been a weatherman and feature reporter on Channel 7, and also hosted KGO's "AM San Francisco" with Nancy Fleming (wife of KABL Radio's Jim Lange) for several years.

For years, I'd see Hanson each summer at the charity golf and tennis tourney named for his late friend and KGO colleague, Russ Coughlan. And for years, Hanson wasn't working — hard to believe for someone that talented, even if he wasn't age 27.

But finally, five years ago, Hanson started doing a show on aging on the local cable-access channel near his Marin home. That's where Comcast VP Andrew Johnson, who'd seen Hanson's work for years on Channel 7, spotted him and snapped him up to host "Comcast Local Edition," a series of five-minute, twice-an-hour inserts that run at 24 and 54 minutes past on CNN Headline News.

"It gave us instant credibility, having someone as well-known as Jack. I couldn't think of a better person to host this public-affairs show than him," says Johnson from his office at Comcast headquarters in San Bruno.

"It's a second career for me," says Hanson. "I tape about 15 of them a week at Comcast's two studios in the East Bay, and in Marin, San Francisco and San Jose." The TV vet says of his chats with local political and community leaders, "It keeps me pretty busy."

Hanson is the father of eight. His youngest, a son by his second wife, Pauline, is 10 and sometimes tells him, "I saw you on MTV, Dad." Hanson explains that Comcast will sometimes drop in one of his interviews, with, say, a city councilperson, where it has unsold local air time. (Hanson's oldest, Craig, a stage manager at KRON, is 47.)

Johnson, who produces "Comcast Local Edition," wants to expand the segments to other areas and says Hanson will be perfect for upcoming "where-are-they-now?" segments with retired local TV personalities. Johnson says he's arranging for the well-liked Hanson to interview long-time KGO colleague Rigo Chacon, who just retired after 30 years of covering the South Bay.

Johnson also wants Hanson to tape a segment with another long-time colleague, former KGO anchor and East Bay resident Van Amburg. "We'll get (former KNBR personality) Frank Dill back here from Hawaii to be interviewed by Jack," says Comcast's VP of Communications. Johnson is also toying with the idea of having Channel 7's Dr. Dean Edell do some segments on aging with fellow Marinite Hanson.

"I got lucky," says Hanson of his new career in cable. But there's more to it than luck: Hanson has always been a talented communicator. And even though it doesn't happen often enough in broadcasting, it's always good to see talent rewarded.

MARTHA, MY DEAR: I like Fortune Mag columnist Stanley Bing's comments about the Martha Stewart verdict on PBS/KQED's top-notch "Wall Street Week With Fortune," which airs Fridays at 7:30 on Channel 9.

When the show's co-host, fellow Fortune columnist Geoff Colvin, joked that Stewart's future quarters "are probably not the kind of gated community she had in mind," Bing smiled and noted: "This is like taking a velociraptor and putting it in a small room while meanwhile, the Tyrannosaurus Rexes continue to deplete the forest."

Questions. Comments? E-mail Bill: Newsmann@sonic.net



SHERRY LaVARIS STAFF
OAKLAND EAST Bay Symphony musical director Michael Morgan conducts the Oakland Unified School District Combined Orchestra at Skyline High School in Oakland on March 11. He will direct the symphony's performance tonight.

Duo combines hip, classical

■ DJ Spooky, performing with musician Anthony De Ritis, will add his modern touch to pieces by Beethoven and Ravel

By Bruce Gerstman
STAFF WRITER

Ludwig Van Beethoven never got down to hip-hop. But if he were alive today, that could have changed.

Tonight, the Oakland East Bay Symphony will feature two musicians, Anthony De Ritis and DJ Spooky, who will jointly perform Beethoven's "Symphony #7" Maurice Ravel's "Bolero" and the premier of De Ritis' "Devotion."

De Ritis wrote this piece, as well as two orchestral scores derived from Beethoven and Ravel will be performed at the Paramount Theater tonight.

Asphodel, his former record label.

In a 1999 interview with De Ritis, Miller said he likes to change music.

"I can only wonder what listeners of the future will think when they look back and realize we all used to listen to the same record the same way," Miller said.

Miller has remixed for Metallica, Nick Cave, Sublime and others. He grew up in Washington, D.C., where he listened to local hard-core punk, British ska punk and go-go music, according to a written statement.

De Ritis said the orchestra will include three drummers, which fade in and out the background beats.

"There's one single groove



ANTHONY DE RITIS'

"devotion," as well as two orchestral scores he derived from Beethoven and Ravel will be performed at the Paramount Theater tonight.



PAUL MILLER, aka DJ Spooky, will improvise using a laptop computer, turntables and mixing board at tonight's performance.

CONTRIBUTED

that's constantly changing over time," he said.

Anthony De Ritis is a professor at Northeastern University's department of music in Boston. He has conducted at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York City, as well as other sites. He received a Ph.D. in music composition at UC Berkeley.

Reach Bruce Gerstman at 510-339-4506 or e-mail bgerstman@cctimes.com.

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Oakland East Bay Symphony concert with Anthony De Ritis and DJ Spooky

WHEN: 8 tonight

WHERE: Paramount Theater, 2025 Broadway, Oakland

TICKETS: \$15-\$58

INFORMATION: 510-625-8497

ALSO: A pre-concert lecture is set for 7:05 p.m.

What's your perception of Steve Palmer's photos?

By Robert Taylor
STAFF WRITER

In his day job, Steve Palmer is a professor of psychology and cognitive science at UC Berkeley, but you don't need to study his research on color and visual perception to appreciate his photography.

Eighteen large-scale prints are on display in the lobby gallery of the Albany Community Center, providing a fascinating window into Palmer's world. All photography begins with light, of course, but Palmer's background gives him an unusual vision. He titles the exhibit "The Art of Perception."

Palmer, who lives in Albany, is interested in light filtering through leaves and flowers, intense sunlight that makes plants translucent, and fish swimming in a dreamy — what — pondscape? Even his relatively basic landscapes and waterscapes, such as "Tomales Bay Afternoon" and "Still Twilight," are thick with atmosphere.

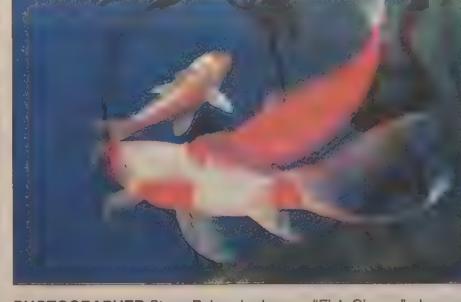
His close-up of bamboo really is transformed, with lighting and cropping, into "Glow Sticks" of the photo's title. "Floating Leaf" is a purple swirl in vivid blue wa-



PATRICK O'KIERSEY'S paintings, including "Whale," right, are on display at Turn of the Century Fine Arts in Berkeley.

ter. "Blue Graydient" is a mysterious — but placid composition of grass reflected in water with no perceptible surface or horizon. A densely petaled white rose, photographed with nose-in-the-blossom detail, takes on the character of its title, "Yellow Vortex."

Some of Palmer's urban images are also on display, including crisp, traditional shots of New York City buildings reflected



PHOTOGRAPHER Steve Palmer's dreamy "Fish Circus," above, is one of the prints on display at Albany Community Center.

in the window walls of other buildings. His "Blue Sky" is extraordinary, an abstract composition of sweeping architectural curves, looking like a classic photograph from the 1930s, but in rich color rather than black, white and gray.

PATRICK O'KIERSEY, whose art studio is in a converted theater building on Telegraph Avenue in Oakland, carries on the tradition of Bay Area abstract expressionism in an exhibit of nine

paintings at Turn of the Century Fine Arts in Berkeley. They're on view through March.

O'Kiersey studied at Mills College and during the past decade has shown his work at the venerable Triangle Gallery in San Francisco. Last year, two of his big, impressive canvases were part of the opening exhibit at the Joyce Gordon Gallery in downtown Oakland.

See EXHIBIT, Page A9

Show turns science to fun

“TRUE MYSTERY”
Presents “A Gag Show”
Berkeley Rep's 19th annual school tour production, which includes its six-week tour of Bay elementary and middle schools today and gets two final performances Saturday, March 20 — a blare of music, please. Professor — a Thrust Stage. Big time.

The special public Saturday, recommended ages 7 and up, will be at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Written, composed and directed by Barbara D'Amato, “Code Blue” is a mixture of the hidden and microscopic world of science and genetics.

The production is a cally challenging ensemble school tour, featuring a dynamic and fun ensemble of students and young adults can also learn two to keep up with.

Starring Rudy Gurnick, D. Hines and Celia S. along with musician S. the production features a touring ensemble including Musculus, an ant, Elegans, a rapping mouse, Aequoria Victoria as a jellyfish, and friends.

Berkeley Rep's “Professor” is at 2025 Addison Street in Berkeley. Tickets are \$10-\$15. Call 510-845-2877 toll-free at 888-ABETT.

GET CRACKIN’
a good thing the design “Code Blue” — scenic Kevin Cain, costume Todd Roeherman, and signer Jake Rodriguez mastered the art of the skedaddle and the

Only hours after “Code Blue” closes — more Professor — on the Thrust Stage, the annual Teen Council Festival opens at 8 p.m. that's one hot stage.

Last fall, high school students from around the country submitted entries on the theme “A Family’s One-act Playwriting.”

Four playwrights selected by a panel of judges to take part in a series of free play workshops in December, local director and area specialist Kent Nagano.

Following final showings of all four pieces, the three chosen three for production.

Teenagers handle about the festival — auditions, casting and rehearsals (including technical, producing, and printing). These are truly the ones.

The trio selected for Saturday at 8 p.m. Sunday at 2 p.m. are

“How I Learned to Love Things Disappear” by Sean Baron, a student of High School in San Francisco. Directed by Shoshana Resnikoff of Berkeley High School, it features Coulstein and Baily Hirschstein, also of Berkeley High.

“The Living Room Crane” of Berkeley High's second world to be produced, the Rep's Teen Council work, the playwriting and the fine line between him and his creation. The directed by Sean Baron, it features Lavena Wren and Mon Trumble. All students at Berkeley High.

“Life and Death of a Paperclip” by Salvador Dali, Oakland (Head-Roar) Satan in a schoolboy faces gender ambiguity and far too many Peter-and-Jelly sandwiches.

“The Life and Death of a Paperclip” by Salvador Dali, Oakland (Head-Roar) Satan in a schoolboy faces gender ambiguity and far too many Peter-and-Jelly sandwiches.

Tickets are \$10 for students (and younger). Call 510-845-2877.

Reach Jack Tucker at jtucker@cctimes.com or 262-2768.

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Friday, March 19, 2004

Section D

dual values
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ding to lease

CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
MONTCLARION EXPRESS-NEWS
Cars are big winners,
big losers in the latest rat-
ing of residual values for new cars
by the Automotive Lease

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end of the lease periods.
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of how much the
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assigns a star rating to
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conserved for vehicles with
residual values.

latest rankings of new ve-
recently released by the
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got five-star ratings,
ranked at the bot-
with one-star ratings.
got at least four stars;
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with three stars.
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these ratings are im-
consumers who are look-
new cars. They can help
improve how much your new
be worth when you go to
two or three years.
projected low residual
only good values to con-

LEASING, Page D2



2004 SATURN VUE is new and improved inside and out, with more powerful V6, more towing capacity, bigger gas tank, more safety features and a choice of three radio systems.

Changes on 2004 Saturn VUE subtle but significant

MOTOR MATTERS

Two years ago Saturn introduced a sport utility vehicle called VUE. Then they went back to the drawing board and now have the new and improved version.

The 2004 VUE has numerous attractive features making this a more enjoyable all-around vehicle for any occasion — something the original version lacked.

Most of the improvements are subtle but very desirable.

For example, it now features dual-stage airbags and the front seat belts have pretensioners. Both

of those features are only noticeable in an accident; I didn't check them out.

Those who buy the optional comfort package will find six-way power driver's seat with lumbar support and heated driver and passenger seats.

A DVD rear-seat entertainment system is ideal when traveling a distance with children. The 7-inch LCD will keep their attention for hours — if you select the right show.

OnStar and XM Satellite radio are also options, and three new radio systems are available.

TOM KEANE
Keane on Wheels

My tester was equipped with a stereo that played CD and MP3, but I stayed tuned to XM Satellite and listened to the same channel I play in my home: Sunny.

Another change is a 16-gallon tank that holds about a gallon more than the original VUE; a change you might not notice. But you might notice how the acoustical changes

have made the interior much quieter.

Interior changes can be seen on the nickel-plated door handles, the backlit cluster sporting white instrument gauges with chrome rings, and the leather wrapped three-spoke steering wheel.

These changes aren't going to jump out at you, but there is one that will.

The exterior is now available in an Electric Lime color, which is so unusual it will take at least a week to get used to it. Even after a week, I wasn't too thrilled about the color.

Incidentally, body panels are now resistant to the parking lot dings.

However, I was thrilled with the new engine. My tester had the optional \$2,000 Red Line performance package. This package consists of a lower suspension, 18-inch tires and alloy wheels, chrome exhaust tips and a snazzy-looking front fascia.

The combination made the VUE somewhat sporty and it handles very well, especially in hard turns. The electric power steering is cali-

See KEANE, Page D2



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Why windshield wipers won't go into 'park'

BY BRAD BERGHOLDT
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Q My windshield wipers just began stopping anywhere they choose rather than at the bottom of the windshield. Have you ever heard of such a thing?

I know this is a minor problem but it drives me nuts to have to turn them on and off repeatedly to get them to stop in just the right place.

What can be done to fix this?

Alice Wagner

Menlo Park, Calif.

A Until one's windshield wiper "park" function quits working, most folks never appreciate the convenience of this clever wiper feature.

Virtually all windshield wiper motors contain a set of cam-driven electrical contacts that open and close with each sweep of the wipers.

Whenever the wiper arms are at any position other than the bottom of the windshield, the contacts are closed.

Your wiper control switch also contains a set of contacts that close when the switch is turned off.

Let's add some wires and we can now bring the wiper arms home, regardless of sweep position, after the control switch is turned off.

What could be wrong with your wipers? My hunch is a faulty park switch within the motor or the control switch.

Unfortunately, most wiper motors no longer contain serviceable parts, so a faulty park switch would require motor-assembly replacement.

If your car is more than a few years old, and since wiper motors are amazingly durable, a recycled (wrecking yard) part might be an attractive option.

I just had my car fixed (for the same problem) for the third time.

When I asked why they had such a hard time fixing it, the shop owner confided that he'd recently lost his top mechanic and that it's almost impossible to find a quality replacement.

His frustration with this situ-

BRAD BERGHOLDT
Auto QnA

ation and others was so great he's contemplating closing or selling the shop.

Is this an isolated situation or are we all going out on a limb by buying high-tech, difficult-to-fix cars?

Larry Peters
Morgan Hill, Calif.

A There is indeed a huge shortage of skilled automotive technicians.

A recent study reported a shortfall of 35,000 technicians every year through 2010.

With a modern vehicle carrying more computing power than an Apollo spacecraft and very complex mechanisms, extensive training and experience are essential in order to ensure a good fix.

Why the shortage of technicians? There's a saying in the industry that sums it up well: Eggheads don't like to fix cars and gearheads don't like math.

In addition, technician training is available, but not often enough utilized.

It costs around \$1,000 a day for a shop to send a tech to school (including lost wages and productivity), and two to three weeks per year (wishful thinking) are needed to keep up with the rapidly changing technology.

Unless a technician is willing to obtain upgrade training on their own time, they'll certainly fall behind.

Until the industry finds a way to attract sharp new people and aptly reward technicians for their skills and training, the shortage will surely continue.

Brad Bergholdt teaches automotive technology at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif.

E-mail him at under-the-hood@juno.com or write to him in care of Drive, Mercury News, 750 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95190. He cannot make personal replies.

Lease

FROM PAGE D1

sumers if they are bargain priced to start with or if you're intending to keep the car for a long time, say six to 10 years. Or both.

The big winners in the latest rankings are no surprise: The Japanese automakers dominate the list, while the vehicles of the Big Three U.S. carmakers were among the lowest ranked.

The only American brand to rank as high as five stars was the GMC Yukon, a full-size sport utility similar to the Chevrolet Tahoe and Cadillac Escalade.

The Honda Accord came in with five stars, but the Toyota Camry, which outsells the Accord, tallied only four — still a good showing, however. Also with four stars was the Nissan Altima, the third-best-selling Japanese midsize sedan.

At the bottom of the list, however, with just one star, were such vehicles as the Buick Century, Dodge Intrepid (now discontinued), Ford Taurus, Mercury Sable, Chevrolet Malibu and Mitsubishi Diamante.

The Saturn Ion came in with just two stars. Among those ranking in the middle, with three stars, were the Chevrolet Monte Carlo and the Chrysler Sebring convertible.

Even though the Camry failed to get that important fifth star, Toyota and its Lexus luxury marque tallied the most entries in the five-star class. They included the Toy-

ota 4Runner, Celica, RAV4, Sequoia, Tacoma and Tundra, and the Lexus ES 330, GS 300, GS 430, GX 470, RX 300 and SC 430.

Besides the Accord, the only other Honda on the five-star list was the Odyssey minivan. Honda's Acura luxury brand saw two of its vehicles on the top list: the NSX sports car and the RL sedan.

Nissan's only five-star vehicle was the Frontier compact pickup, while Nissan's Infiniti luxury brand found its G35 model on the top list.

Four Volvos got top rankings: the C70 coupe, S60 sedan, and V40 and V70 wagons. Porsche's GT2 made the five-star list, along with Mercedes-Benz's CLK and BMW's Mini Cooper.

But don't confuse resale or residual values with quality rankings or let low residual-value ratings automatically disqualify a vehicle from your shopping list.

Cars that cost less up front, sometimes considerably less than their competitors, can be great values, particularly for those who like to keep a vehicle for a while.

But even if you're trading in two or three years, those steep discounts are to your advantage because you are getting compensated up front for the vehicle's projected steep depreciation. Many of us would rather get the discount up front so we can have lower payments.

To see all of the current depreciation rankings, visit www.alg.com.

Keane

FROM PAGE D1

bated to give the VUE a sporty feel. Under the hood is a 3.5-liter V6 engine that is about a half a liter stronger than in the old V6 model.

This new engine generates 250 horsepower and 242 pounds-foot of torque to make the old engine seem comparatively sluggish.

Saturn people tell me it can do 0-60 mph in 7 seconds. That's not earth-shattering speed but I feel comfortable with the acceleration, especially when entering a freeway.

Another advantage to the additional power in towing ability. It can now pull 3,500 pounds compared to 2,500 pounds on the old

model.

This engine is linked to a five-speed automatic transmission that has grade-logic control, which eliminates that annoying up-and-down shifting when climbing a hill.

My tester was also equipped with the all-wheel drive option, which is a great safety feature for when roads are slick with either snow or rain.

I liked the way the liftable raised, exposing a useful amount of storage space

2004 SATURN VUE

Vehicle Type Five-passenger sed

Suggested Retail \$22,995

Price as Tested \$22,995

Engine Type SOHC 24-valve

Horsepower 250

Torque 242 lb-ft

Curb Weight 3,500 lbs

Mileage 18 mpg

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2004 9-3 Convertibles ARE HERE!

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CONCEPT trucks from Japanese manufacturers, Honda's SUT, above, and Mitsubishi's Sport Truck, right, are possible production models in the midsize pickup market.



Japanese manufacturers explore new pickup frontier with concepts

MOTOR MATTERS
In 2004 auto shows is like through a parallel universe. Vehicles appear to be in a show form, but the vehicles linked to them are not.

Reversal, domestic automakers are focusing on passenger sedans and Japanese manufacturers are hinting at the future of pickup trucks.

On debut by Honda and aren't of spunkly commercialized pickup trucks. Honda's SUT Concept and Mitsubishi tagged its pickup Sport Truck Concept.

It announced it will a production version of truck in 2005, bills the sport truck as a different breed.

A machined-aluminum look is evident in the vehicle's headlamps, taillamps and wheels, said Damon

Schell of the exterior design team. Everything in excess is milled away to leave just the bare essentials.

The SUT is fitted with a 5-foot-long cargo box that Honda boasts is deep and benefits from less wheel-arch intrusion than a traditional pickup. The bed size is just right for hauling a Honda motorcycle or ATV, said Mike Tsay, the SUT's interior designer.

In true sport-utility style, the cab is roomy and accommodates five adults. Playing off the billet theme, interior shapes are basic and geometric, Tsay said. The speedometer is housed in a large metal cylinder and the instrument panel block is a massive rectangular form.

Seats get a roll-bar treatment, with metal bars looping through upper portions of two-part headrests.

As expected of Honda, the powertrain is a high-torque, all-aluminum, DOHC V6. Honda reports this V6 boasts ultra-low emissions,

offering a manual-shift option complete with steering wheel-mounted paddle shifters.

Fitting for a pickup with V8 power, the body is bold, athletic and muscular looking. Departing from the traditional, the Sport Truck is a monocoque design — Mitsubishi's term for unibody construction.

Chris Schutterer, interior designer for the Sport Truck, said, "It's a truck that speaks to a car person," and definitely is built with serious production intent. He expects to see a production version of the Sport Truck in 2006 or 2007.

The Sport Truck's exterior is "very tough, very muscular," Schutterer said. Unlike a conventional pickup, there is no gap between the 5-foot-long bed and cab, and the C-pillar flows into the bed to give the truck a more athletic profile.

Powering the all-wheel-drive Sport Truck is a 4.7-liter V8 engine generating 235 horsepower and 295 pounds-foot of torque. Its transmission mate is a five-speed automatic with a dial-type shifter knob,

offering wheels shrouded by aggressive fender flares. These wheels roll on a four-wheel independent suspension.

Driving excitement has a special meaning to rear-seat passengers who have the option of enjoying an open-air jump-seat ride.

Rear seats can slide apart or together, and "expand" up and out — sliding rearward into the cargo box. The rear glass pops up when the seats are out to double as a windshield.

Also featured are practical engineering pluses such as full-time all-wheel drive and an electronically operated, multiposition tailgate.

Concept vehicles give designers the ability to think outside the box, said Dan Sims, general manager for Mitsubishi Motors Research and Design of America.

"We've literally reshaped that box into something that inspires passion."

Geneva auto show is a world of its own

MOTOR MATTERS
My first trip to the international auto show in Geneva, Switzerland, discovered it was like no other world.

It is the only European show held every year, contrast, auto shows in Germany, and Paris, same years.

Decidedly different from others. Since Switzerland is home-grown car industry, like the country in which it takes place, represents territory, whereas in France, German makes dominate; in Tokyo, the Japanese are prevalent; and in Detroit, it's the spotlight.

It serves as a runway for the season's newest offerings and since it is spring, many are on display. Among them was the anticipated Mini Cooper. It is the U.S. in April for the auto show and goes on August in the States.

Mercedes-Benz SLK was to make its debut. The second-generation SLK is more powerful than the one it replaced. The new SLK continues to offer possible hardtop of the original, which Mercedes calls "soft-top," a technology that allows air to be blown at neck when the SLK is to be sold beginning.

Mercedes, after giving hints with concept cars, unveiled the production version of a new class of car, the CLS. On sale in about six months, the CLS is a different kind of vehicle with a completely new design language for Mercedes. It is a four-door car with the elegant design of a coupe.

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MICHELLE KREBS
She's Freewheeling

ring in spring in Europe.

The SLK 350, with its V6 engine, goes on sale in August. The V8-powered version arrives in October as does the SLK 55 AMG.

Capturing the spotlight for Audi was its new A6, on sale in the U.S. soon. The new A6 is bigger than the current model by about 5 inches; its wheelbase is stretched 3 inches for a roomier interior.

The A6 also is equipped with Audi's answer to BMW's iDrive, whereby most electronic functions — including climate, navigation and entertainment — are operated by a single control or through voice activation. The system made its first appearance on the top-end A8, redesigned last year.

Audi also displayed the A3 Sportback, a five-door hatchback that goes on sale in Europe soon and reportedly will come to North America as Audi's new entry-level model.

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MINI COOPER CABRIOLET gets preview at the Geneva Auto Show before arriving in the U.S. for sale in August.

MOTOR MATTERS

suggests the upcoming one will be lower with a 5.0-liter V10 engine that produces about 500 horsepower and is paired with a seven-speed gearbox.

Much of the buzz at the show centered around a concept unveiled by Volvo that was created by an all-women team of designers, engineers and marketers. Your Concept Car, as it is called, makes its first U.S. appearance at the New York auto show in April.

The YCC, a four-seater with two gullwing doors, is unlikely to go into production as is, Volvo officials said,

but some of its features — including ideas that provide extra storage, minimal maintenance and enhanced safety and visibility — may show up in future production vehicles.

Rolls-Royce unveiled its 100EX concept convertible based on the new Phantom to commemorate the famous British marque's 100th anniversary this May.

The Geneva Show is the place where Europe's design houses get to strut their stuff. Italian design houses Bertone and Zagato each brought to the show very different

concept cars based on the Aston Martin Vanquish.

Another attention-grabber came from ItalDesign-Giugiaro with its futuristic Toyota sports car, outfitted with a 408-horsepower hybrid powertrain.

U.S. automakers used Geneva as a venue to announce their intent to launch their product assaults — of U.S.-made models — on Europe. Chrysler announced its SRT performance group will sell the Crossfire SRT-6 in Europe. GM said it will push the Corvette, as well as Hummer and Cadillac in Europe.

Audi TT for 2004 is about a lot more than just quattro

MOTOR MATTERS
Audi's skyrocketing sales slowed to real levels last year, despite increasing competition. VW's premium brand managers take out its fourth straight record.

It hasn't yet had the cachet of its German competitors, BMW and Mercedes-Benz, in the U.S., but Audi is beginning to stand out as a brand that is elegantly designed, nimble-handling, with enough horsepower to satisfy fans.

This is symbolized by the TT roadster. They are stylish, high-performance sports cars that have become a hit with car buyers into Audi.

For April 1998, more than 100,000 coupes have been assembled at the company's plant in Györ, Hungary.

For 2000, 50,000 TT roadsters have rolled off the assembly line which represents an Audi plant in Ingolstadt, Germany, and mates them to roadster versions.

The DSG has a twin multi-plate clutch that allows two gears to be engaged at the same time. As you shift the DSG, it engages one gear and pre-selects the next up or downshift.

What happens when the process takes place — either automatically or by the driver shifting a lever or the steering wheel — is that the clutch mounted shift paddles — is that the clutch of the engaged gear opens as the clutch

HERB SHULDINER
Down the Road

nology to make them credible competitors in this all-star segment.

A big reason for this is that Audi is a division of Volkswagen, the world's fourth largest car company and the biggest in Europe. VW's engineering resources are world class and Audi is frequently a pioneer for the company's innovations.

The TT is the first to use one of the latest of these innovations: An all-new Direct Shift Gearbox — a six-speed transmission that combines the best features of manual and automatic shifters.

In addition, the 2004 Audi TT gets a V6 engine, the first ever in this model.

The more powerful engine and unique transmission, combined with the signature quattro AWD system, give the TT better acceleration and handling in both coupe and roadster versions.

The DSG has a twin multi-plate clutch that allows two gears to be engaged at the same time. As you shift the DSG, it engages one gear and pre-selects the next up or downshift.

What happens when the process takes place — either automatically or by the driver shifting a lever or the steering wheel — is that the clutch mounted shift paddles — is that the clutch of the engaged gear opens as the clutch

of the next pre-selected gear closes.

There's an overlap that results in a permanent power flow. DSG also permits very fast, smooth gear shifts without any jolting motions. In the automatic mode, a sport program delays upshifts and advances downshifts to speed the shifting maneuvers.

DSG has input and auxiliary shafts. The input shaft consists of a hollow outer shaft that handles 1st, 3rd, 5th and reverse gears; and an inner shaft handling second, fourth and sixth gears.

Each shaft is selected by a separate multi-plate clutch bathed in oil and located

inside each other to conserve space. One high-performance capability of DSG is a launch control that allows Formula One-type starts.

To do this, you step on the brake and accelerator at the same time and rev the engine to 3,200 rpm. Then you release the brake and the TT roars off, shifting quickly through the gears.

The very compact V6 engine is well matched to DSG.

Its 15-degree cylinder angle also allows it to fit transversely in the engine compartment so the body doesn't require any change.

The 3.2-liter engine can generate 250 horsepower at 6,300 rpm. It develops peak torque of 236 pounds-feet between 2,800 and 3,200 rpm.

The engine can accelerate the TT from 0-60 mph in 6.4 seconds in the coupe version, and 6.8 seconds as a roadster.

Top speed has an electronic cutoff at 130 mph. Despite its higher torque and horsepower output, the V6 has low exhaust emissions.

The Audi TT changes only serve to make one of the most beautiful sports cars on the market an even better performer. So its beauty isn't just skin deep.

All American Get-Together kicks off car show season

GOODGUYS ROD & CUSTOM ASSOCIATION

PEALESTON — The acreage of the Alameda County Fairgrounds will come to life as the Northern California car show season officially begins March 27 and 28 at the K&N Filters/Goodguys 22nd All American Get-Together.

One of the largest two-day automotive events in the area, this event includes more than 2,500 American-made and powered vehicles of all years, plus a used auto parts swap meet, cars for sale corral, commercial exhibits and vendors, arts and crafts show, model and pedal car show and a kid's alley.

On the Saturday of the weekend, two special vehicle areas will be showcased

from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. — the Youngguys area for registered event participants (both men and women) age 25 and younger and Homebuilt Heaven for those who used their creativity and craftsmanship to build their ride.

Three buildings at the fairgrounds will showcase various displays including Garage Grown, a collection of retro rods and kool customs.

During the awards ceremony on Sunday, more than 80 awards will be presented including the Goodguys 2004 Custom d'Elegance.

The winner of the Custom d'Elegance receives \$1,000, a silver loving cup and bragging rights for a year. The award is

given for quality of craftsmanship, body and paint, overall engineering, fit, form, function, stance and overall creativity.

Gates will open at 8 a.m. both days and close at 5 p.m. the first day and 3 p.m. the second day.

Admission is \$12; \$6 for ages 7-12 and free for ages 6 and younger. An \$8 parking fee is charged by the fairgrounds.

Registration for the event will take place from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 27 and 7 a.m. to noon March 28.

Further information is available by calling Goodguys Rod & Custom Association, 925-838-9876 or on the Web site, www.good-guys.com.

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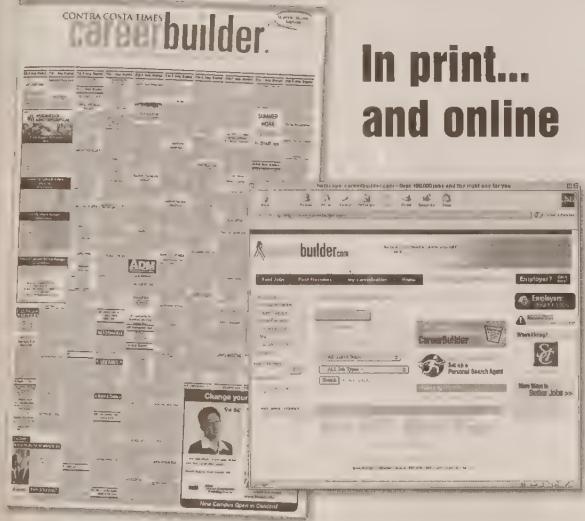
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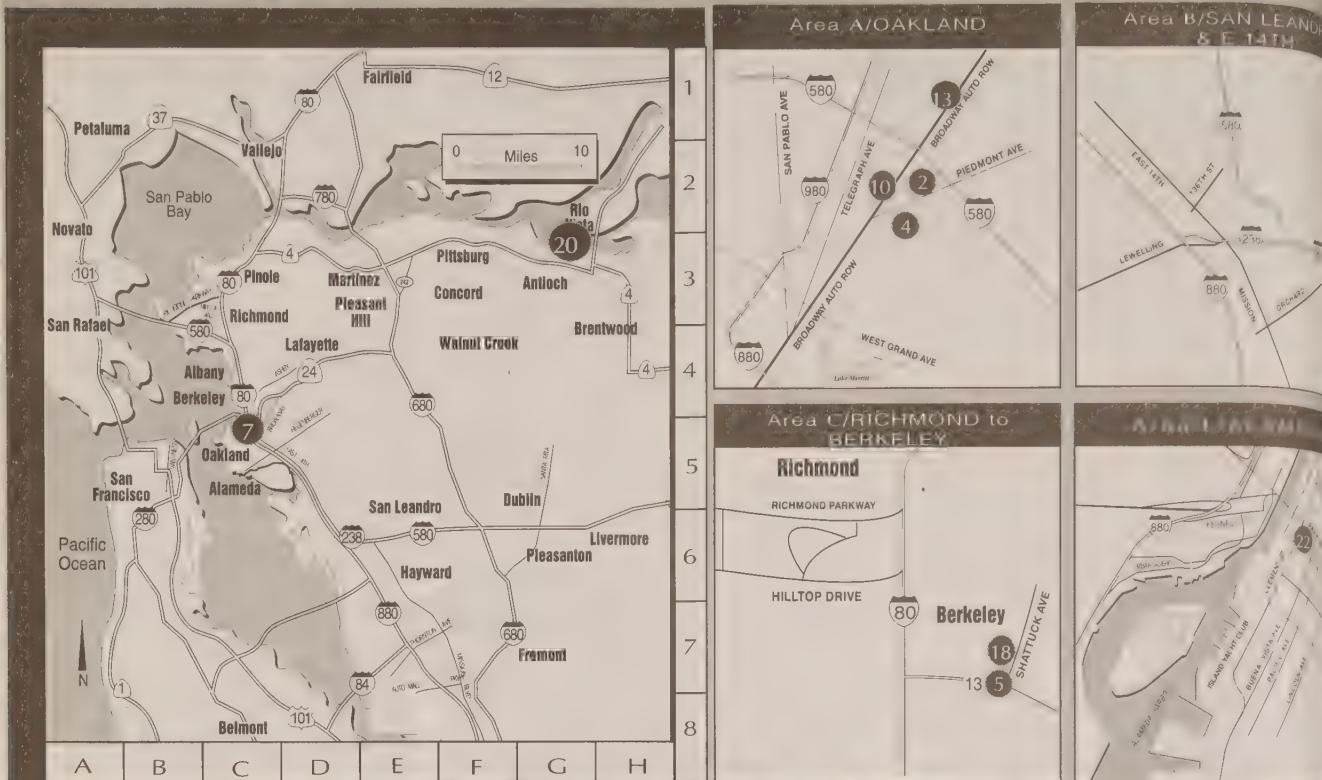
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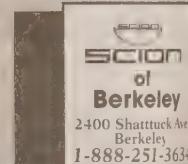
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Shopping Plus

Friday, March 19, 2004

Look inside for local advertising circulars every Friday

Picking produce: How to shop like a pro

ADVERTISING SERVICES

In the produce section of your supermarket or at the local grocery store, feeling the melons and tomatoes, but not knowing what you should be looking for.

The first sign to look for: fresh fruits and vegetables should be in color and in season. If they're decayed, don't buy them. You shouldn't buy more vegetables than you need. Otherwise, they won't be fresh by the time you get to eat them.

The United States Department of Agriculture has created a guide to help you pick the best produce. Although you won't always find it in the store, they are used by growers, shippers and retailers to grade produce.

U.S. No. 1 is the most com-

mon grade. These vegetables are

look fresh, have good color

and no bruising or decay. U.S.

No. 2 and U.S. No. 3 have

lower quality standards. U.S.

No. 4 is premium quality and

you earn this grade.

USDA guidelines are helping to choose specific vegetables.

Remember that each in-

dividual vegetable and fruit has its

characteristics, and, over time,

you'll be able to distinguish between

them and earn the title of an ex-

perienced produce shopper.

Fruit shopping guide

Artichokes: Look for plump artichokes with thick, green and fresh-looking leaves. Avoid artichokes with

grayish-black discoloration and mold or brown areas on the scales.

Asparagus: Look for closed, compact tips and smooth, round stalks with a rich green color. Avoid tips that are open, moldy or decayed.

Broccoli: Look for a firm, compact cluster of small flower buds which are not opened enough to show the bright-yellow flower. Bud clusters should be dark green, sage green or have a purple tint. Avoid broccoli with spread bud clusters, enlarged or open buds, yellowish-green color or that look wilted.

Carrots: Look for carrots which are well formed, smooth, firm and well colored. Avoid ones with wilting roots or that show signs of rotting.

Cauliflower: Look for cauliflower that is white to creamy-white, compact, solid and with clean curds. Curds should not appear spread.

Celery: Look for ones that are fresh and crisp. Stalks should feel solid and rigid and leaves should look fresh and only slightly wilted. Avoid ones with wilted leaves or flabby upper branches. Branches should not show black, brown or grey discoloration.

Corn: Look for corn with fresh husks, silk ends that are not decayed and stem ends (opposite from the silk) that are not discolored or dead. Ear should be well-covered with plump and not-too-mature kernels.

Cucumbers: Look for cucumbers that are firm all over and well developed and not too large in diameter. Avoid ones that are yellowish and large in diameter.

Lettuce: Look for fresh lettuce with good, bright color. Avoid heads with irregular shapes and hard bumps on the tops.

Mushrooms: Button mushrooms should be small to medium in size. Caps should be closed around the stem or open slightly with pink or tan gills. Caps should



KNOWING WHAT TO LOOK FOR when shopping for produce can make all the difference come mealtime.

be white or creamy.

Onions: Look for hard or firm onions without blemishes. Necks should be dry and small. Avoid onions with wet or soft necks or with fresh sprouts.

Peppers: Peppers should have a deep color, glossy sheen, heavy weight and firm walls or sides.

Potatoes: General purpose and baking potatoes should be smooth, firm and free from blemishes, sunburn and decay. Avoid potatoes with

large cuts, bruises, decay, sprouts, shrivels or that are green.

Tomatoes: Tomatoes should be smooth, ripe and free of blemishes. Avoid ones that are soft, overripe, bruised, moldy or have water-soaked spots.

Fruit shopping guide

Apples: Look for firm, crisp, well-colored apples. Avoid apples with bruises or irregularly shaped tan or brown areas.

Bananas: Look for bananas which are firm, bright and without bruising. Avoid ones that have discolored skins or a dull, grayish-colored appearance.

Blueberries: Look for plump, firm, dry, uniformly sized blueberries that are dark-blue colored with a very waxy coating. Avoid ones that are soft, mushy or leaking.

Cantaloupe: Look for melons without a stem and with thick, coarse and corky netting (or veining). Avoid

ones with large bruises or mold.

Cherries: The most succulent cherries will have bright, glossy, plump surfaces and fresh stems. Avoid cherries that look shriveled, are dull in color, moldy or have brown discoloration.

Grapefruit: Look for firm fruits, heavy for their size. It's okay if the skin has scales or discoloration. Avoid ones with dull color and

See PRODUCE Page 3

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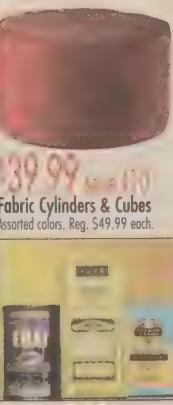
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If you haven't looked at steel roofs lately, it's time you did

BY NICK HARDER
THE ORANGE COUNTY REG STAR

One tough choice almost all homeowners eventually face is what type of material to use to build or replace their roof. Popular choices are asphalt or fiber-glass shingles, wood or cedar shake or shingles, clay tiles, slate, fibrous cement — and steel.

Steel roofs? Did you think they were just for commercial buildings? Isn't a steel roof just a big, clunky metal-looking roof that belongs in an industrial park?

You may not have noticed, but many homes are being roofed with steel. The reason you may not notice is because newer steel roofs are coated to look like conventional shingles, slate or tile. They even come in a variety of colors.

Why are people selecting steel roofs over other materials, even though they often cost more? For a number of reasons, starting with safety.

"For me it was a question first of earthquake safety," said a very serious Meredith Jural. "I studied many aspects of why some homes were left standing when others crumbled after earthquakes. I found that many of them had steel roofs." Jural, a retired earthquake consultant, knows about seismic safety, and she put her expertise to good use when she had her Mission Viejo home re-roofed with steel.

"I did my homework first, though," she said. "I looked at other kinds of roofing, compared prices, warranties, the styles of different materials, and then chose steel."

Jural's roof has a dark shingle look to match her home's somewhat traditional Eastern architectural design.

"It took them about three days to peel off the old wood shake roof and install the new steel roof," she said. "It went on cleanly and neatly and quickly; I was impressed."

Does she like it?

"Oh, yes, very much," she said.

Not only does Jural like her new steel roof, many of the neighbors within sight of her home liked it so much that they had their homes re-roofed with steel. There are at least five styles and colors of steel roofs within a stone's throw of Jural's home.

Besides its seismic advantages, Jural said, her steel roof also has another benefit.

"I've even noticed that it stays cooler in the house on a hot summer day," she said.

Fire-safety benefits were what sold Kim Raddatz, fire chief for the city of Coronado in San Diego County, when he installed a steel roof on his El Cajon home in October.

"From a strictly firefighting standpoint," he said, "steel roofing makes a home a lot easier to protect from fires. Steel roofs are lightweight, very durable, wind-resistant, they have a good fire rating and a proven track record."

Mark and Cindy Seyler in Lake Forest, Calif., had their home re-roofed with steel about two years ago. Cindy said: "I still love it." But why?

"I like the look, of course," she said, "and I don't ever have to worry about it."

The Seylers chose steel "because you can actually walk on it. With other types of roofing you often can't," she said. "I also liked it because it doesn't come in individual shingles or shingles but in long strips. That makes it really

difficult for wind to pick it up."

Another reason Seyler liked steel, despite the somewhat higher price, was the warranty.

"It's got a 50-year warranty. That's hard to beat. By the time you figure in how long it will last, the fact that we wouldn't have to re-roof, it wasn't that much more than other types of roofing."

Common questions about steel roofs

Here are some basics about steel roofing:

Q: How do steel roofing come about?

A: Stone-coated steel roofing was developed during World War II. After the war, the product was commercialized.

Q: Will a steel roof heat up a home?

A: Actually, just the opposite. If a steel roof is properly vented, air moves well between the shingles and underlying decking. Heated air is allowed to dissipate through a ridgevalve as cooler air is drawn through eave vents.

Q: Can you walk on a steel roof?

A: Yes, but care must be taken. It's better to walk on the battens (the long wood strips to which the steel sections are attached).

Q: Is a steel roof noisier in the rain than other roofing material?

A: A little noisier, but many homeowners say it's not unpleasant.

Q: How about wind resistance?

A: Some steel roofing systems will withstand wind speeds up to 120 mph.

Q: Will a steel roof rust?

A: Modern steel roofing systems have advanced coatings to prevent rust.

Q: Will the steel roof's color fade?

A: Very little if at all. A good way to prevent it is to occasionally wash the roof with a garden hose to wash off contaminants.

Q: How about fire protection?

A: A steel roof has a class-A, top rating.

Q: Would a metal roof be too heavy for certain types of homes?

A: A metal roof is, on average, 50 percent lighter than an asphalt shingle roof and 75 percent lighter than concrete tile, fiber-cement shingles and slate.

Q: Doesn't a steel roof cost more?

A: Initially, yes. Though prices vary substantially, you might compare price per 100 square feet to fiberglass (\$35-\$65), slate (\$850); tile (\$825); and steel (\$255).

But, when you figure in longevity and the fact that you may have to re-roof with some other types of roofing material, the extra cost may be a lot less.

Q: How long does it take to install a steel roof on an average home?

A: Usually just a few days if the roofing structure of a home is not complex.

Steel-roof basics

Here are the basics of a modern, stone-coated steel roof system.

■ Material: Steel finished with a stone coating.

■ Weight: 2 pounds per square foot installed.

■ Wind resistance: Class-A rat-



MEREDITH JURAL, OF MISSION VIEJO, California, steel roofs and found that they are safer in earthquakes. After she got a steel roof, many of her neighbors

ing (highest).

■ Earthquake resistance: Weight and strength help homes survive the lateral and vertical forces of an earthquake.

■ Hail resistance: Warranted to withstand golf-ball-size hailstones.

■ Thermal properties: Dissi-

pates heat well to cooler.

■ Longevity: 50+ years.

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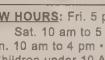
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FROM PAGE 1

water-soaked areas, and a soft, tender peel that breaks easily with the slightest finger pressure.

Grapes: Look for well-colored plump grapes that are firmly attached to the stem.

Avoid grapes that are soft, wrinkled or leaking or have blemishes around the stems.

Honeydew: Look for melons that are soft and velvety in texture. Avoid ones with large, water-

soaked, bruised areas.

Lemons: Look for firm and heavy lemons with a rich, yellow color and a smooth-textured skin with a slight gloss.

Avoid ones that have a dark yellow color, hard or shriveled skin, soft spots, mold or punctured skin.

Oranges: Oranges should be

firm and heavy with a fresh, smooth, bright skin.

Avoid ones that have a rough, dull skin and that are lightweight and look discolored.

Pears: Look for hard pears. Avoid ones that are wilted or shriveled with dull skin or spots. Pears will ripen and soften at your home.

Pineapples: Look for ones with

bright color and a fresh aroma. Avoid ones that look dried or have a dull yellow skin.

Strawberries: Look for berries with a full red color, bright luster, firm flesh and stems still attached.

Avoid ones with large uncolored areas, a shrunken appearance, softness or mold.

Watermelons: Watermelons

should have firm, juicy flesh with good red color that lacks any white streaks.

Seeds should be a dark brown or black shade. (Seedless watermelons may have small white seeds.)

Avoid ones with pale-colored flesh, white streaks and whitish seeds.

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Beauty: Smile lines tell of the wonderful lives of our residents. Aegis Assisted Living features a Beauty/Barber Salon to not only "do hair and nails", but to enhance a sense of well-being.

Spirituality: There are things in life that touch our souls. Aegis observes

many religious holidays — from decorations throughout the community to decorations in residents' apartments.

Humor: Laughter shakes us up and turns us around, makes us feel good. Aegis has frequent entertainers and parties for the entire community to tickle our funny bones and let us kick up our heels.

Learning: Aegis offers speakers, discussion groups, Bible Study Groups, Computer Skills Coaching and Bridge Brush Up Sessions so residents keep

learning and mentally growing.

Health: Aegis offers heart-healthy meals, exercise classes, and more. Customized care plans aid with personal care, showering or dressing, medications, even pet care!

Community: Come visit Aegis Moraga or Aegis of Pleasant Hill and experience for yourself the warm sense of community fostered by residents

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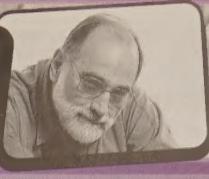
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As more and more of the baby boom generation approaches retirement age, many will find themselves experiencing the first stage of hearing loss, the diminished perception of high-frequency sounds.

Yet for those baby boomers who tend to resist signs of advanced age, hearing instruments have proven to be a difficult sell. According to Johanna McMartin, Hearing Instrument Specialist, today's middle-agers are more concerned about maintaining a youthful appearance. "They believe they can better hide a slight hearing loss by not wearing a hearing aid," Johanna said. "They're also wary of common hearing aid problems such as over-amplified sounds and the uncomfortable feeling of a plugged-up ear."

But now GN ReSound has designed a line of digital hearing instruments made specifically for people with high-frequency hearing loss. ReSoundAIR™ hearing instruments are designed to be unobtrusive.

Every ReSoundAIR model incorporates GN ReSound's proprietary ConforTec™ technology, a set of hardware and software features that provide clear, natural sound quality and superior listening comfort. In all models, new venting design keeps the ear canal open to reduce the plugged-up feeling that's common in smaller custom instruments. In fact, in the Mini-BTE (behind-the-ear) model, traditional ear molds have been replaced by a transparent plastic sound tube that's virtually invisible, even when someone is looking directly at your ear. The Mini-BTE clings so snugly to the ear that it's unlikely to fall out even during strenuous exercise.

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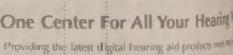
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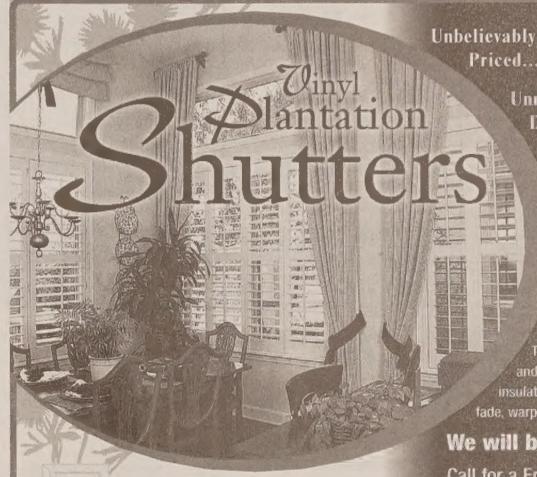
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Tote cuisine: beyond
the bologna sandwich

BY MARIE GALLAGHER

It's not for lack of imagination that many people have come to associate the sandwich with the meat. "It's a very simple sandwich," says Michael D. Johnson, owner of Diner's Delight in San Leandro. "It's not necessarily bad, but it's not necessarily good either."

With the popularity of the sandwich, Johnson says, it's important to make sure it's good. "It's a sandwich that's been around for a long time, so it's important to make sure it's good," he says.

For those who like their sandwiches simple, Johnson suggests a classic bologna sandwich.

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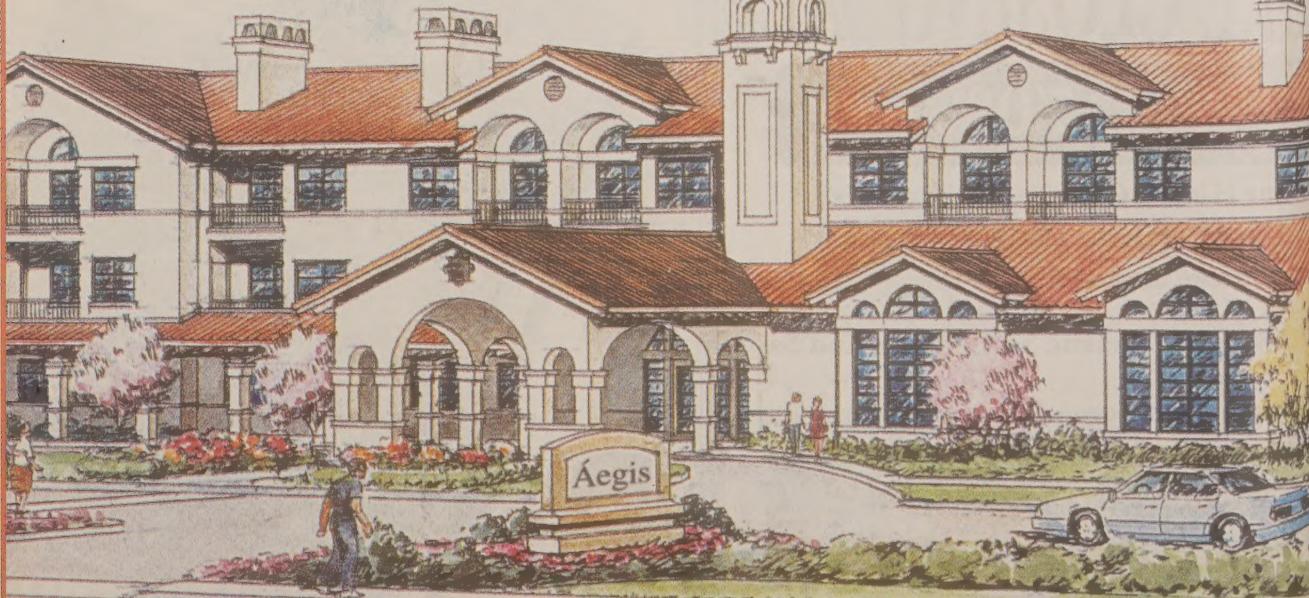
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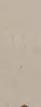
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